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COMMUNICATIONS, ORIGINAL AND SELECTED.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ON NATIONAL PREJUDICES.

"Lands intersected by a narrow frith
Abhor each other. Mountains interposed,
Make enemies of nations, who had else
Like kindred drops, been mingled into one.
Thus man devotes his brother."———

COWPER'S TASK.

THE term, "natural enemies," has been applied to nations bordering on each other, because they are under different governments. That it is an *unnatural* appellation, must appear to every one who examines the subject divested of all prejudices, and of an undue bias in favour of self and against others. We may fondly suppose every thing in favour of ourselves, and against our neighbours, and they may retaliate on us with similar partiality; but to the eye of sober reason it appears evident that the sum of human happiness would be much more increased by mutual acts of kindness, each supplying what the other wants, than by the demonizing plan of mutual hostilities.

But not to press this subject farther at present, I am disposed to take up the less display of human prejudices, and to point out the inconveniences of national distinctions between countries legally united under one government, but which have many repelling points that require correction. The English, Scotch and Irish, if they were only truly enlightened to see it, have all one common interest, and yet let the subject be introduced in conversation, national distinctions immediately appear, and with the unthinking many, the aim is to exalt the national character of the country to which the speaker belongs, to the depreciation of that of others. Doubtless many honourable exceptions exist, for the good of all countries are of one family, and cherish a spirit of liberality towards their neighbours; but with the great and little vulgar a propensity to invidious distinctions is painfully conspicuous.

In the literary world a certain cant of expression has prevailed in attributing blunders almost exclusively to Irish writers: hence the phrases, Irishisms, Hibernian blunders, bulls, and similar expressions gratuitously assumed: Scoticism is also a favourite expression with some English writers. In this censure reviewers must also be frequently classed as offenders, those arbiters of public taste, who ought to hold the critical balance with the strictest impartiality, and yet these writers who thus so bountifully deal out their epithets on others, very seldom in the true spirit of impartiality, give us instances of Anglicisms; though provincial, and even metropolitan expressions could easily be selected from English writers equally departing from proper and duly authorized usage. Let a blunder be called a blunder; but, why, in the name of common sense, should Irish be prefixed to it, even when the objectionable phrase may not have been used by an Irishman?

In matters of trade what narrow nationalities prevail! The history of commerce affords curious instances of the oppression exercised by the strong over the weak in such cases. Let us cherish the hope that there is a slow approximation to more enlarged views on this subject; though many prejudices yet remain. I have always been a friend to the legislative union between Great Britain and Ireland, though I highly disapprove of the dishonest means by which it was brought about. Among other reasons I am a friend to this measure, because I expect from it in time, an abatement of national prejudices, and an amalgamation of the interests and views

of the two countries. I am also a friend to the union, because some anomalies in legislation and government are done away by it, and because the minds of Irishmen, through party prejudices, had become so highly exasperated against each other, that it was useful to interpose a great body between them. I could name some proceedings countenanced by the Irish Parliament, which a spirit of party politics introduced, but which the Imperial Parliament, with feelings not so sublimated by local hostilities, would not have taken up. Dublin may suffer a little, but in time I hope, if war should cease its ravages, the increase of commerce would far outweigh the temporary loss arising to the retailers of articles of luxury, owing to the additional number, who have become absentees since the union. At most this can be but a temporary loss, and affects but little, if at all, the state of general commerce. Whether the absentee, with his family, uses Irish linen, or eats Irish butter in England, or in Ireland, is immaterial to the interests of trade; he pays the increased price of bringing these articles into England, and the loss in point of morals cannot be great to this country, from the non-residence of some, whom Ireland counts among her absentees. In the populous province of Ulster, and I believe also in the southern and western ports, no injurious consequences have been felt from the union. Dublin, as the overgrown head to a body, as yet slender, may have suffered; but trade, like water, finds its own level in time, and after a few inconveniences experienced by individuals settles so as to accommodate itself to the general interest. Scotland, after the experience of a century, is found to have profited by her incorporation with England, and the prejudices which were formerly so powerful between the two countries, have nearly sunk into oblivion. Her two attempts in favour of the house of Stuart appear to have had no connection with any affects arising out of the union, nor can some English prejudices against Scotchmen at the commencement of the present reign be traced to this source. The favouritism of an obnoxious minister was in the latter case the efficient cause.

But to render our late union with England more efficacious than a mere incorporation of the two legislatures, much remains to be done. A wise conciliating system of legislation, combining justice and sound policy together, may do much. A generous oblivion of the past on all sides, and a liberal enlightened abatement of ancient prejudices will effect much more. To complete this happy termination of former grievances, each individual should contribute his share, by banishing from his mind all national animosities and antipathies, and instead of being the partisan of one country become the denizen of the whole.

Instead of dwelling only on the defects of national character, let us rather wisely extract the valuable from each, and combine it so as to promote the general good. England is wealthy, and has consequently, as a nation, the haughtiness attendant on wealth, and the long possession of power, but she has habits of industry and frugality, and that kind of decorum and civilization, which commerce gives. Though it may not be of the very first rate, it is still of value at least as an exterior accomplishment. The English nation besides possesses a literary class, whose attainments in science, and in the useful and ornamental arts, form an honourable distinction in national character. From the possession of immense wealth, capable and often willing to reward genius, London is the mart also of literature. Scotland, from being a poor nation, is rising gradually into wealth, and may sometimes carry the arts of rising beyond the proper boundaries. The natural and allowable wish to help each other may degenerate into nationality, and shrewdness or cunning may in some instances usurp the place of wisdom. In this rapid sketch of national manners, I wish to guard against being illiberal, and in assigning traits of character, to aim in pointing out defects, rather to promote reformation than to indulge in censure. All nations have their distinguishing qualities, but, as I said before, the good of all are of one family. In pourtraying Irish manners we must distinguish between the commer-

cial character, more especially as it is blended in the northern province with a similarity to Scotland, from our contiguity to that country, and an identity of circumstances and interests; and the character which more peculiarly belongs to the Irish nation. A high sense of honour, bordering on the romantic, and oftener employed on the trifling than on the more important transactions of life, joined to an improvident thoughtlessness, may be admitted to form a strong feature in Irish lineament. If this delineation be just, it is a character, which, according to the different modifications it assumes, admits of many excellencies and of many glaring defects.

From a review of the whole, instead of offering the repelling points, much advantage might be gained by each country correcting its own errors, and improving by an imitation of the virtues of her neighbours. Let England forego its selfishness, and that hauteur which has rendered her so unpopular among other nations, causes her to be disliked on the continents of Europe and America, and induces her to assume an undue assumption of authority over her younger sisters. Let Scotland moderate her ardour to rise, and cultivate the noble qualities of generosity and open-heartedness. Her literary character stands high, and her very peasants partake of the rudiments of learning. In an especial manner let Ireland, without abating of her honour, study to become useful rather than showy, and let habits of stricter industry and frugality be learned from her more steady neighbours. Instead of being a land of 'squires and of dependents, let us wish for an extension of commerce to fill up the space between the higher and lower ranks, and to level the inequalities of the surface not only without injury to the rich, but with evident advantage to them, and to the improvement and amelioration of the lower ranks both in civilization and morals. In fine, let national distinctions and national reflections cease, and let the three nations become *in fact*, as they are nominally, one country, and that friendly emulation only be exerted, which stimulates to run together in the paths of virtue and peace. Laws must avoidably fall short of effecting every thing, but to an enlightened and liberal system of legislation, let the energies of a united people be added. Even should an untoward concurrence of circumstances prevent the benefits to be derived from beneficial laws, much public advantage and private emolument would be accomplished by the relinquishment of religious and national prejudices. It is not to be expected that men will ever think alike, but where uniformity ends, let a wise forbearance commence, and when we cannot be of one mind conscientiously, let us agree to differ.

As to civilization, we are a young nation, and have yet much to learn, and on this score need instruction in the refinement of our taste. To mention only the single instance of periodical publications, many of those published in England are greatly superior to the Irish publications. The Irish taste has been vitiated by crude trash, and craves a continuance of similar trifling, against which the conductors of a respectable work should make a resolute stand, and as caterers for the public, refuse to gratify a corrupt taste. In an incipient civilization like young people and children, from a perversity incident to immature judgment, we often prefer the sour crab to the matured fruit; but those instructors deserve well of the public, who resist such perverted fancies, and in opposition to present advantage refuse to sell unwholesome garbage.

In the case just alluded to, and in many others we have much to learn. Instead of wrapping ourselves up in self-sufficiency, and thinking ourselves right from a fond attachment to our own way, because it is our own way, or the way of our country, we ought to stand open to conviction, and receive instruction from our neighbours, in such instances, in which they may be wiser than we are. By such a mode of proceeding we may make the experience of others our own, and though we may have to abate in dogmatism, and an overweening attachment to national prejudices, the stock of real improvement will be increased, and the boundaries of substantial knowledge enlarged.

As I have been attempting to draw a hasty sketch of national manners, I shall add another trait in which I think the English have the advantage over my countrymen, in not indulging so freely in the excesses of the table after dinner. In general they are more sober. A literary or moral subject is seldom introduced into conversation after dinner in Ireland, yet it is common in England; where if they have less conviviality, and what is erroneously called good fellowship, they have more rationality and literary taste, as I have experienced on many occasions during my occasional visits to that country. To this cause I attribute the greater degree of intellectual improvement, manifested among many of the mercantile class in England. Some of them are very deeply engaged in business; and yet they find time for literary pursuits. The time gained from undue indulgences of the table is given to reading and other means of improvement without encroaching on business. This is a more rational entertainment than the noisy contests of politics, and the news of the day, or talk of the technical routine of trade generally occupying that portion of the conversation which is spared in many convivial companies from dogs and horses, where the language and manners of jockeys and grooms are well imitated. Noisy companies are too common in all countries, but I am inclined to think that on settling the account, the balance in favour of sobriety and rationality lies with our neighbours, and that our manners would be improved in an imitation of their more prudent plan. K.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

ON SONG WRITING.

SIR,

CHANCE, accident, design, or idleness, or what you will, threw a very large collection of old and new Songs in my way, and I read them over, with no immediate view of improvement you may suppose, but rather to divert an idle hour, as harmlessly as possible. It occurred to me however, that if I could extract any remarks from these songs, and arrange them methodically, my time would not be totally wasted. As I know not yet in what particular method I may arrange them, the present letter can only contain a few general observations on such as happened particularly to occur to my memory; but if I have leisure to pursue this subject, I promise you something like method in my handling the theory and practice of song-writing. In love songs, which I shall consider first, seems to be an established rule with it the writers of them to steer as clear as possible from common sense, indeed there is but little room for this property in the *brains* of a love sick Poet. He takes leave of the present world and flies to the regions of fancy, where he seeks no other guide, and wishes for no other resting place than Rhime. Confident that the music master will hide all his failings and cover all his defects with quavers and crotchets, he violates every rule of propriety, every law of providence, and distorts every image of nature. He walks upon *stilts*, and although perhaps no methodist talks more familiarly of *heaven* and *hell*, complains heavily of suffering the torments of the latter, and is ever, but in vain, by his own account, soliciting the blessedness of the former.

The language of love songs is profusely metaphorical; the mistress is generally a monstrous human being, armed with darts, flames and tormenting engines, and the aim of the Poet is, to disarm her of those deadly weapons. The following is a small specimen of the true metaphorical:

"With her I could for ever dwell,
  There's *heaven* within her arms;
But absent from her I'm in *hell*,
  Dire grief my soul alarms:
I rave, I burn, I pine, I die,
  Nought can my heart relieve,
But at her sight my sorrows fly,
  Her presence bids me live."

The distress of a man is certainly remarkable, who at one and the same time raves, burns, pines, and dies: it is also to be noticed that there is one circumstance in his case still more deplorable. The poor *gentleman* is in hell, a very unpleasant situation; where however I must leave him to take notice of a lover of another

kind, who has thought proper, I will not say, to invert the whole course of nature, but at least to stop its progress, to keep the birds from flying, and even prevent the blowing of the winds:

"Thus she mourn'd, what a scene all around,
The birds flag their wings at her sighs;
The vallies her sorrows resound,
And the stream shows her bluboered eyes;
All nature takes part in her woe,
A black cloud o'er the heavens is spread,
The winds have forgotten to blow,
And the willows bend over her head."

What is an Earthquake to this? that the winds should lose their memory and forget to blow; yet such liberties are frequently taken by Poets, but, in my opinion, they are very *unwarrantable*, for nothing can be so cruel as to annihilate the world for the sake of one inhabitant of it. I would allow the Poets to hold conversation with the woods and valleys, and to call the streams or beasts of the field to witness, but to prevent the poor birds from flying, and the winds from blowing, is not to be justified by any of the laws of Parnassus.

It appears too, that the language of lovers, when they speak of heaven and hell, is not always metaphorical, witness the following:

"Nice virtue preach'd religions laws,
Paths to eternal rest,
To fight his king and country's cause,
Fame counsel'd him was best,
But love opposed their noisy tongues,
And thus their votes out-braved:
Get, get, a mistress, fair and young,
Love fiercely, constantly, and long,
And then thou shalt be sav'd.

Here is a receipt for eternal salvation; for this song is modestly entitled "the way to be saved," and no doubt there are many who tried the experiment; with what success I cannot at present take time to inquire. This author, however, differs very materially in his religious sentiments from the following:

"Long courtship's the vice of a phlegmatic fool,
Like the grace of fanatical sinners,
Where the stomachs are lost and the victuals grow cool,
Before men sit down to their dinners."

The poet's idea seems to be less unreasonable than any I have mentioned, for he considers his mistress in the same light as he considers a joint smoaking on the table. He rejects courtship because it resembles a long grace before dinner; so whips up his knife and fork, and helps himself like an alderman at a city feast. Indeed the song smacks so strongly of the *kitchen*, that I should almost suspect a member of the cook's company had written it. It was a very great favourite some time back, and the ladies must certainly own their obligations to the author for the delicate comparison he has drawn.

In my next letter, Mr. Editor, I shall probably pursue the subject, and if I find it agreeable to your readers, shall go through a course of lectures on most of our common and fashionable songs, with a view to ascertain the portion each has of poetry and common sense. Mean time, I am, Sir, your very obedient servant.

CURSORIUS.

Belfast, February, 1809.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

IN the present situation of this country, from the exorbitant price of Flax, and the probable want of a sufficient quantity of Flax-seed for the ensuing season, every circumstance connected with the linen-manufacture, and the support of those employed in its various branches, is worthy of serious consideration. Should it fail from want of raw material, the spinners must suffer first; but the distress, if not ruin, of others must soon follow. In the counties of Down and Antrim, notwithstanding the extent of their manufacture, the dearth of flax, or of flax-seed, is only a lesser evil, compared with that which must be felt in the other parts of the kingdom. From the fineness of their yarn, a small quantity of flax employs a great number of spinners, and produces a profit, as the price of labour, equally great.

In several districts of these two counties, and a small portion of Armagh, I am induced to think that the yarn averages at 8 or 10 hanks in the pound. In the barony of Ards, I know that many spin yarn of 14, several of 16 to 20, and a few to 22, and upwards. In the village of Greyabby, I have seen all grists, from 22 hanks downwards, in the grocery shop windows, not only in bunches, but in single hanks, as brought in by the poor, to purchase their necessaries, or their little luxuries of tea, sugar, tobacco, &c. In spring last, I procured a hank of the grist of 23 hanks in the pound, from a woman there, who had near 40 hanks of the same, spun by her daughter, then in her 15th year; and I was told that, about the village of Millisle, some spin much finer.

From these facts, I presume, we may consider 6 hanks in the pound a very moderate average for the linen-yarn of these two counties: whilst as I am informed, it does not exceed two, in the other counties. Here, then, is a saving of two thirds in the price of seed, rent of land, and labour previous to spinning, besides the additional value of the yarn, and extension of the benefits of industry, from the additional number of spinners, &c. employed.

I am aware that, were all our yarn spun from 6 hanks upwards, the quantity of fine linen produced would far exceed the demand, whilst the coarser, though more necessary, staple would be diminished, and nearly lost. But I am aware, also, that were our flax judiciously prepared, and our spinning improved as it might, nearly as much yarn, and of better quality, would be produced, for the coarser fabrics, by young spinners, and the spinning machinery, now happily introduced into this country, as there is at present; whilst the nicer eye and more delicate finger, improved by habit and attention, would produce four times the quantity that is now spun of a finer staple. Besides, whatever deficiency might arise, in the very coarse fabrics, might, I presume, be supplied cheaper, from hemp, by the machinery already mentioned.

There is another circumstance, of no mean importance, which should not be overlooked. If I am rightly informed, the city of London has been in the habit of sending out £50,000, yearly, for foreign lace, or yarn and thread to be manufactured into lace. If this be true, would not the production of such yarn at home be a great national saving, not to speak of the numbers who would be employed and supported, by preparing the thread, and manufacturing the lace? And does not this present a strong inducement to Government and the legislature, to encourage the genius, animate the industry, and cheer the hearts of the poor lasses of Erin, by enabling her Linen-board to give adequate premiums for the production of yarn, and manufacture of thread, equal to the finest and best imported.

I know, something of this kind was done, a good many years ago, when Ireland had a parliament; and that it was productive of very happy effects. Previous to that period, yarn of 24 hanks in the pound, had never been heard of in the country, and finer than 12 seldom seen. However I would have the claim to premiums to commence with a grist still finer; suppose 30 hanks in the pound, and the premiums to rise in proportion to superior fineness. From what took place on a former occasion, were the experiment made, I have no doubt of its success. Nay I feel warranted in expressing my full conviction that our ingenious, though poor and despised, Irish Girls are capable of outstripping the world in this delicate and valuable manufacture; and I am happy in adding, that the Right Honourable and Honourable the Dublin Society, and the trustees of the Linen-board have in their possession, demonstration of the fact. I am assured that the finest linen-yarn, ever imported, did not exceed 40 or 44 hanks in the pound; whereas one was sent to the Linen-board, some years ago, by the Earl of Londonderry, and another, at a later date, through the Right Hon. John Foster, of at least 64 hanks in the pound. About two years ago, I deposited, in the museum of the Dublin Society, a hank of equal fineness, and one cut of 120

threads, which the spinner, as she declared to me, believed to be, at least, 14 hanks in the pound finer. This rests on her declaration, because it was the first she had spun, of so fine a thread, and the quantity was so small that she had no weights by which she could ascertain its fineness with accuracy.

For the first of the two hanks, presented to the linen-board, she was complimented with ten guineas; for the other with twenty; the only reward she has ever received. However, animated by the honour, more than the value of this well earned premium, she has proceeded in her improvements, almost beyond credibility. At this moment I have in my possession a hank, which I received from her, on the 20th of last month, weighing three sixteenths of an ounce, i.e. of the fineness of 85½ hanks in the pound; and on the 1st instant, I received 4 cuts, inclosed in a letter, 20 hanks finer.

These facts I would scarcely have dared to mention, I had I not, within my reach, evidence to support them; nor would I have mentioned them, did I not conceive that the knowledge of them may probably be conducive to the public good. It is intended that a specimen of my evidence, shall accompany this sketch. Whether, and how far the expected good may arise from it, must depend on the spirited exertions of our *poor Irish Girls* to imitate the example of Ann M'Quillin; the generosity of Irish women, the patronage of the linen-board, supported by parliament, the patriotism, I had almost written, the nationality of Irishmen; and *the blessing of Providence.*

As the facts which I have mentioned, may attract public attention, and excite public curiosity respecting the person, connexions, character, rank and circumstances of Ann M'Quillin, I shall take the liberty of subjoining, that—

Ann M'Quillin, the Irish spinstress, is a native of Comber, in the Barony of Castlereagh, and County of Down, six miles distant from Belfast. She is near 40 years of age, rather below the middle size, delicate in her constitution, but cheerful and lively in her manners, though her health and sight are considerably impaired by intense application to the improvement of her art.

She has three sisters, who spin yarn from 24 to 40 hanks in the pound, which she calls coarse yarn.

Her father, Charles M'Quillin, of an ancient and respectable family, in the county of Antrim, is an old and infirm man, of excellent character, and who through life, has been a very useful member of society. He was for many years an eminent writing master, and afterwards, when a failure of sight disqualified him for that profession, he obtained an employment in the revenue, worth £30, per annum, which he held for 28 years. He is now superannuated on full pay. He is nearly blind, and totally dependent on this small annuity, and the astonishing industry of his daughters.

The name of her mother, a discreet pleasing woman, and highly respected in her station, was Wilson. She languished for several years, under a slow decline, which terminated her life, a few years ago. During her long indisposition, the exertions of her daughters, added to their father's small annuity, supplied her, not only with the necessaries, but humble comforts, of declining life.

To such tender melancholy offices, the young M'Quillins were devoted, almost from infancy. Their grandmother Wilson, who died 19 years ago, at the advanced age of 92, had been long an invalid, sinking under the pressure of years and infirmity. During this period, while the industry and cheerful attentions of the young M'Quillins soothed and comforted her latter days; her good sense and instructive lessons animated their industry, and laid the foundation of that character, which they still support. Mrs. Wilson was a truly respectable woman, and eminently useful in her generation. I knew her intimately, from the year 1767, nearly till the time of her death. She was the best bred, best informed, *Dira Lucina*, otherwise midwife of the county, in her day, and consequently the most generally employed in all the neighbouring families of rank and

respectability. Gentlemen were not so frequently called in, as grooms of the bedchamber, then as latterly; and when they were, it was only, like Dr. Slop in the family of Mr. Shandy, to amuse themselves in the parlour, with the intricate disputables of religion or politics, while dame Wilson managed things above stairs, in her own way, and generally brought them to an happy issue.

In the treatment of small pox she was aqually eminent. She was among the first in the country, who adopted, recommended, and practised the *Suttonian* system, in which she was of great service to the public.

I hope I shall not be deemed impertinent in adding, that the wheel on which Ann M'Quillin spins her superfine yarn, was made, before the marriage of her grandmother Wilson; and that, on her first removal to her husband's house, in the year 1716, it was one of her accompaniments. This the whole family assert, on the grandmother's own authority: and the circumstance appears to me as important, in this sketch, as the immortal Milton's shoe-latchets; Paoli's great dog, or Johnson's large English oak stick, in the sketches of their respective characters.

Perhaps it may not be amiss to mention that Ann cannot spin her superfine yarn, except in mild weather. Frost, high-winds, and excessive drought, are equally unfavourable. She then spins, what she calls coarse yarn: that is, from 24 to 30, or 36 hanks in the pound.

A few years ago, she could spin a hank of 64 in the pound, in four days. Of the finer staple, she can now spin a hank, in the week, when the weather is favourable. But the superfine, i. e. about 100 hanks in the pound, requires nearly twice the time.

Of the manner in which she prepares her flax, I know nothing; but I am certain, the knowledge of it would be highly important to all concerned in the linen business, and to the country at large, as it would enable spinners to produce yarn, not only finer, but in every respect much better, than is usually done. Under this impression I earnestly wish that the linen drapers, and others conversant in the trade, would take this subject into their serious consideration; and if they deem it of any real importance, that from a regard not only to the circumstances and merits of our unparalleled spinstress, but to the general improvement of our staple manufacture in elegance and value, they would devise, adopt, and execute, some measure, worthy of themselves for rewarding her past exertions, and encouraging her not only to persevere in them, but to publish the means, and process, by which she has brought her flax and yarn to such amazing perfection.

As what I have written may reach the eye of some, who may be incapable of estimating the fineness of Ann's yarn, from their ignorance of its count and measure, I add, that each hank contains 12 cuts, each cut 120 threads, and each thread measures $2\frac{1}{2}$ yards.

From this table, it is evident that the thread of her yarn, of 64 hanks, from one pound of flax, is in length

	Miles, f. p. yds.	
85 Hanks,	102 6 34 2	Irish measure.
	130 7 7 1	English do.
	136 4 34 2	Irish.
	173 6 36 2	English.
and 105 do. p. lb. no less than	168 6 0 0	Irish.
	214 6 7 0	English.

Should you, Gentlemen, from the view, above exhibited, deem what I present you, worthy of a place in your Magazine, I shall take the liberty of troubling you with something further on the subject, at a future day. In the mean time, permit me to request that you may be so good as to inclose a few threads of Ann's *astonishing* production, to each of your Subcribers, with this sketch, that they may see it with their own eyes, and judge of it by the light of their own understanding. If you do, I hope—nay, I trust—I am assured,—they will be willing to contribute to a subscription for her benefit of which I doubt not you and your agents in the different towns would accept of the office of being collectors, as a small acknowlegement of the admiration which it will excite, the pleasure it will inspire, and the

flattering prospect of national honour and interest which it opens. In the Irish ladies I repose, if possible, more than confidence. I know that their honourable pride, and their patriotism, will conspire with their innate generosity in promoting the circumstances, the merits, and the future comfort, of their ingenious and humble, but admirable countrywoman.

To the female nobility and gentry of Ireland, Lady Dufferin has set a noble and praiseworthy example. She has repeatedly purchased yarn, had it manufactured into thread, by Ann herself, and wrought into lace, in the neighbourhood of London. I have in my possession, at this moment, a specimen of the thread manufactured from yarn, of about 70 hanks in the pound, and the lace worked for her Ladyship from it, far superior to any thing of the kind, which ever was seen in this country. Would the other ladies of the land follow her steps in the encouragement of our Irish spinstresses, they would call forth Irish ingenuity, render Irish industry active and comfortable, and, by the splendour of their virtues, add real dignity to their titles.

"Nobilitas sola est atque unica virtus."

W. STEEL DICKSON.

Roan, Armagh, Feb. 15, 1809.

☞ *Through an error of the press, in the foregoing article, Ann M'Quillin is stated to be near* 40 *years of age.....she is but about* 25.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

NATIONAL SCHOOLS.

THE following Plan, requiring of government the annual grant of a sum not exceeding £120,000, would establish well conducted schools within a mile of every house, provide for the civil and moral instruction not only of all the poor in Ireland, but also of all the middle classes; impress moral and religious principle upon the public mind, without the slightest encroachment upon the particular tenets of any Church, and thereby increase the public confidence, the peace, and the happiness of all.

ARRANGEMENTS.

I.

That government grant £50, and every parish, at least £12 10 0, to erect four school houses at proper distances from each other in every parish, for the education of all the children, in English, writing, and Christian duty.

II.

That government continue this grant annually, for the education of 40 poor children in every parish, that shall contribute a small annual sum sufficient for repairs, firing, and premiums; and adhere to the underneath Regulations.

III.

That each parish shall, at a vestry meeting, choose six intelligent Laymen, resident in the parish, who, with the Established, Dissenting, and Catholic Clergymen, shall constitute the PAROCHIAL COMMITTEE.

IV

That the Parochial committee shall superintend the application of the Government grant, and the parish contribution to the erecting, supporting, and endowing said schools;—shall be empowered to choose the free scholars, and in case of gross misconduct, to expell them; to choose the teachers, and in case of neglect or misconduct, to supersede them;—to hold public examinations, at least once in the year, to adjudge premiums to the most deserving, to publish their names, and record them in the vestry-book;—to superintend the establishment, the funds, repairs and orderly arrangements of the schools, and to make a faithful report hereof to the COUNTY VISITORS.

V.

That a visitor of liberal education, and liberal views, be annually appointed to inspect the schools of each county, at a salary proportioned to the number of schools visited. That the visitors for the 12 counties of Leinster be chosen by the Established Clergymen, at their annual visitation, for the 11 Counties of Munster and Connaught, by the Catholic Clergy, at their visitation; and for the nine Counties of Ulster, by the Dissenting Clergy, at the General Synod; that the Visitors be required to visit all the schools annually, to receive the report of the Parochial committees, to see the state of the school-houses, books, accounts, and to apportion the salary to the varying numbers in each school; —to examine the scholars in English, Writing, Accounts and the Christian duties;—to suggest improvements to the Teachers, and make

a report of the Morals and progress of the schools, and of the management of the several committees to the SUPREME COMMITTEE.

VI.

This committee consisting of a Bishop (appointed by the Primate) the Titular Bishop of Armagh, and the Moderator of the Synod of Ulster, to meet at Athlone, on the first Tuesday in September, and on the report of the Visitors, to determine what schools have, by the neglect of the masters, or of the Parochial committees, forfeited the current year's endowment, and what schools are, from their pre-eminent attention, entitled to receive the forfeited endowment, in addition to their own?—to ascertain the salary of each visitor, allowing £75. for every 100 schools he has visited, and to direct the government agent, attending this committee, what proportion he is to remit to each visitor, and to the Established Clergyman of each parish, for the endowment of the respective schools;—to report the progress of useful learning to the Public, and the exertions of the several visitors to the Clergy, at their respective annual meetings, and through them to suggest to the several Parochial committees such improvements as from time to time may appear most conducive to the public good.

PARTICULAR REGULATIONS.

I.

Any overplus, arising from school houses having been already built, in proper situations, or from extra contributions, to be applied to the building of two apartments, or to some other permanent accommodations for the teacher.

II.

In order to encourage the establishment, and consequent regularity of four schools in each parish in preference to that of one, two or three, government to grant only £43. per annum, to such parochial committees, as prefer the building and endowing of three school-houses; £36. to such as prefer two; and £30. to such as prefer one; in all cases requiring the parish to contribute for the first year, one fourth of the sum granted by government for building, and every following year, a small sum for repairs, firing and premiums.

III.

The parochial committee to divide the parish endowment so, as to grant to each of the four schoolmasters ten guineas per annum, for educating 10 poor children, with those scholars for whom he is paid by the parents, and £1 2 6, for paper, and for the use of books, provided and lent to them by the master, making up in all, £50. for the four schools.

IV.

That the parochial committee choose only one free scholar out of one family, in the course of 2½ years, the period allowed for the education of each free scholar, unless in case of vacancies;—that they limit the number of free scholars in parishes preferring only one endowed school, to 24, the overplus of the £30. viz. £2 14. to be applied to paper, books, and firing, for said school;—and that they limit the number in each of the four schools, to 36, including the 10 free scholars.

V.

That the parochial committee see, that all the scholars are clean, and regular in their deportment, in their attendance on school, and on public worship;—that the masters punish every breach of truth, honesty, peace and piety with as much strictness, as indolence and inattention;—that the scholars be all instructed in English, Writing, and Accounts, but above all in Christian duty, by reading and explaining every Saturday, such passages only of the New Testament, as regard Christian conduct;—that their respective Pastors follow up these rudiments of Christian morality, by inculcating their own particular modes of faith, and practical duties from the pulpit, and by catechising and admonishing the children of their respective congregations both in public and in private.

VI.

That in the public examinations, all the first classes of the four schools be examined in one class, all the second in another, in order to ascertain, by the premiums, the comparative merit of each school.

VII.

That the visitors be empowered, in the first year's visit, to call a vestry meeting in each parish, to ascertain the number of school-houses required.

REASONS FOR THE ABOVE REGULATIONS.

Ques. Why require a parish contribution to the building, firing, premiums, and repairs of the school-houses, in addition to the Government grants?

Ans. As a small earnest of their wish to establish, increase and render permanent such public schools, intended for the education of all the children in the parish.

Q. Why endow four schools partially, instead of one central school exclusively, for the poor?

A. 1st. To establish well conducted schools within a mile of each house.—2d. To bring education to the door of 10 free scholars in each of the *four* quarters, instead of confining it to 24 in *one* quarter of the parish.—3d. These 24, being the greatest number that could be educated for £30. must either occupy the school twice the time necessary for their education, or leave vacancies, not to be filled by the poor of one quarter of the parish; and in either case, the number educated in each parish would, in 20 years, amount only to 96: where as 50*l.* applied as above, would in the same time, educate 320 poor children in each parish, and extend the benefits of education equally to all the poor in Ireland.

Q. Why submit the schools to the direction of a parochial committee?

A. That the choosing of the situation for each school-house, the choosing or superseding of the masters, and of the free scholars, the repairing of the school-houses, the orderly arrangements of the schools, the education and morals of the scholars, may be entrusted not to the jarring caprice of the many, but to the discretion of a few judicious and responsible directors.

Q. Why are the visitors chosen annually?

A To keep them always on the alert.

Q. Why are they not chosen by the government, but by the clergy of the three churches?

A. 1st. Not by the government, because, from their distance, they cannot distinguish individual merit but through the mist of court influence; and because of the popular prejudices against even the appearance of sinecure jobs, and monopoly.—2d. The occurrence of the three churches is required, in order to unite *all* the inhabitants of Ireland, in this grand object, equally interesting to all.—3d. The clergy are the best qualified to choose the most proper visitors, and they are so circumstanced as to know, and check by a new election, any remissness or partiality in the visitors.—4th. The clergy are thereby reminded of their own duty, viz. to follow up the teacher's exertions, by impressing the precepts of morality on the rising generation, at the same time that they are instructing their respective congregations in the peculiar tenets of their own church, and the leading evidences of Christianity.

Q. Why subject the schools, the masters, and the parochial committees to the inspection of visitors, and the exertions of all, to the direction of a supreme committee?

A. To prevent a sinecure neglect in the visitors, to prevent indolence in the teachers, and a consequent relapse of the schools into their present state of torpor, by making the honours and emoluments of every year depend on their respective exertions manifested to the supreme committee by the minuteness of their annual reports, and to submit all their exertions to the direction of the Clergy, the natural superintendants of public education, the natural conservators of the public morals.

SIMPLEX.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

PROFESSING in your useful publication, "permiscere utile dulci," I conceive the subject of the following paper not altogether foreign to the purpose of your Magazine, as I feel confident that the practice recommended in it, so far from being confined to the faculty, ought rather to be diffused among society in the most plain and public manner.

In your number for January I perceive with pleasure, some important

remarks on the prevention of Burns and Scalds: remarks, which if properly attended to, might often save the life, and prevent the deformity, distress and misery, so often consequent on such unhappy accidents. I am sorry, however, that it is not always in the power of the tender, the affectionate parent or the most attentive nurse, to save the thoughtless innocent from one of the most melancholy accidents to which it is liable, nor can the steadiest artificer, engineer, or domestic be constantly preserved from the agency of heat. Since then the accident is too often unavoidable, and since medical assistance can seldom be procured at the time it is most necessary, I conceive it will be extremely serviceable to the public in general, that every one be directed to proceed with caution, propriety and steadiness, in a moment of confusion and alarm, and to be made acquainted with the applications, which if instantly resorted to, and continued for a proper time, will quickly relieve the patient from unutterable anguish and perhaps an untimely grave.*

That animals as well as vegetables are naturally impatient of great and sudden changes is universally known, and that great vicissitudes of temperature produce important alterations in the animal economy. The action of a part exposed to extremes of heat or cold, will be deranged, or its life destroyed in proportion to the degree of temperature, the duration or suddenness of application, or the structure of the part exposed. When accidents of this kind happen it will be consequently of the utmost importance to bring about the change from either extreme, with very slow gradations. This indeed is usually observed in cases of danger from exposure to severe cold: the body or part affected is not suddenly heated, but rubbed first with such applications as are coldest (ice or snow are generally recommended) the cold is thus gradually and imperceptibly diminished, or what is the same, the heat very slowly increased. If likewise an animal be overheated by active exertions, he is not immediately plunged, without danger, into cold water, and even if by accident he were, the most effectual method of preventing any bad consequences from the sudden change, would be to support the temperature by exercise and friction.

It is therefore rather singular that when a part has suffered from the action of heat, or is burned, the same precaution is seldom attended to, but instead of this the very coldest applications are immediately applied. This is indeed the practice people would instantly resort to without reflection, and which they would continue to use, from the *temporary* ease they would experience by it. They would also be sanctioned in using it by the authority of almost every writer on the subject, since the days of Hippocrates, and by a conviction that almost every other case of the kind, had been treated in the same way. The practice is however decidedly reprehensible, and has been lately abandoned by several very eminent practitioners, two of whom, Drs. Kentish and Kinlake, have long amused the world by their controversies, not respecting the superiority of the plan they follow, but the honour of priority in recommending it: an honour, to which I think neither justly entitled; for I believe it has been long known, that numbers of artizans, who from the nature of their employment, are often affected with burns or scalds, more or less severe, have been in the constant habit of exposing the part to the heat of a fire, as near as they can bear, till the pain be completely removed, which is generally the case, in a few minutes; and that nurses have for ages applied and extolled hot brandy profusely applied, "*for taking out the fire*;" whence it is evident that though their theory be erroneous, their practice is just the same with that of Drs. Kentish and Kinlake; and we also find the good old Heister recommending stimulating applications to burns.

Of the stimulating plan I speak, not from any love of theorizing, from any desire of useless innovation, or even

* Slight injuries of this kind will do well in whatever way they are treated, it is where the vis vitæ is low, or mortification threatened, that the heating plan will be essentially useful.

from analogy so strong in its favour; but as I have practically witnessed its superiority over the more common treatment, I earnestly wish it to get a fair trial, and to be made known to every individual who may ever have the misfortune to suffer or witness the tortures of an accident so painful, so distressing; for if the proper practice be not generally known, it can seldom be applied the moment the injury is received, that moment in which it can and will be truly useful by supporting the first excitement, till it be allowed to subside gradually by the gradual diminution of heat; a circumstance of the utmost importance in treating any accident of this kind, to prove the great utility of which, many convincing arguments might be adduced. A few familiar ones will, however, suffice: First, it has been long observed, that if pitch, tallow, wax or resin, in a liquid form, and necessarily hot, fall on any part of the skin, there will be no pain if they be allowed to remain on the part till they become cold, but if rubbed off immediately on falling, great pain will succeed. Secondly, every child has observed, that on plunging the hand or foot into water rather warm, the pain was much greater immediately on exposing the part to the cold, than it was in the water; now the pain brought on in both cases from exposure to the air, is surely not owing to its action, for there is no abrasion of surface, but evidently to the sudden change from heat to cold; another proof of which is, that the pain will still be greater, by removing the hand or foot from very warm to cold water.

Now when a person has the misfortune to receive an injury from excessive heat, either of fire, water, &c. the part ought to be immediately exposed, naked or thinly covered, to the heat of a fire so near as the patient can easily bear, and retained in that situation from ten to thirty minutes, diminishing the heat in proportion to the decrease of pain. During this time and for a few hours after removal from the fire, the part may be covered with thin cloths dipt in hot water, and if the injury be very extensive, the patient should be kept rather warm. This plan of excitement I do not remember to have seen recommended by any writer: I first took the hint from workmen who used it, after finding other stimulating applications so much recommended, and it was with pleasure I observed its uncommon utility. If, however, the method do not seem quite congenial to the feelings of the patient or attendants, the other stimulating liquors, such as oil of turpentine, spirits of hartshorn, common spirits, or æther, made warm in hot water, ought to be freely applied, if at all convenient. As these, however, are seldom present on the spot where the injury is received, as by evaporation they may often not heat but cool the part, when sparingly or improperly applied, and as fire or warm water are always sure to be present, as their heat can be rendered uniform and easily regulated, and as they are attended with no expence, are they not preferable to the other applications recommended by the advocates for the stimulating treatment?*

It must, however, be admitted, that for the first few minutes it will be productive of additional pain, which might be considerably alleviated for a *time*, by cooling applications; but this pain, together with the excitement, will soon begin to subside: the vesication, and suppuration will be often prevented; if not, they will be rendered comparatively trifling; all danger of gangrene (mortification) will be completely removed, unless the organization of the part have been entirely destroyed; there will be little danger of contractions, or disagreeable cicatrizations (scars); the distressing rigours generally produced by dashing on cold water, &c. will be prevented

* A jelly of soap, with the addition of a small quantity of perl ashes, has been long a popular remedy, with what advantage I am not quite clear.

The nature of the burn from oil of vitriol, caustic lee, quick-lime, and such acrid substances as destroy the texture of the body, should be carefully studied, and compared with the destruction of the organization of a part by fire, but this would require a longer paper. If the skin be exposed to concentrated oil of vitriol, wiping it with a dry cloth is the safest remedy, and water the worst application.

and the pain will be less under the above treatment in half an hour after the accident, than in twelve hours continuance of cold applications or useless liniments.*

These are surely advantages which every humane man would wish his fellow-creature to enjoy, when suffering under one of the greatest of human calamities. Great, however, as they are, there is no doubt but the practice has been and will be considerably opposed; the practitioner, long accustomed to use a contrary plan, will not be easily persuaded of its injurious tendency; the tender parent and officious nurse, will guard against innovation, and every consideration will naturally give way to the desire of *present ease*, and the *temporary* removal of severe pain. A consideration of this, however, should not deter us from endeavouring to diffuse a general knowledge of a more rational treatment for an accident so distressing, which, since it cannot, like the small pox, be prevented, ought to be met as if expected, by all who are anxious for their own welfare, or the speedy recovery of a suffering friend.

J. MURRAY, Surgeon.

Church-street, Feb. 26, 1809.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ON ENGLISH GRAMMAR.

THE several sorts of words that compose a language, have their characteristic and definite features. The minute distinctions amongst these are only discernible by close observation. The same words in various uses of them grammatically, though not philosophically considered, become different parts of speech. Many writers have not evinced a sufficient regard to perspicuity in composition: their ideas have been either obscure, or they have unhappily fallen upon an intricate manner of communicating them. Ellipsis is sometimes so much indulged as to make construction and meaning ambiguous. Sentences are often made so long and complex, that the relations, which words and phrases bear to each other, are remote and doubtful. As the presentation of objects to the mind, and modes of thinking are various; so every composer has something peculiar to himself, in the order and construction of his sentences. Men eminent for literature, have widely differed on the grammar, etymology, and philosophy of the English language. Hence the original and bold theory of John Horne Tooke, A. M. in opposition to the writings of such famous literary characters as Lowth, Harris, and Johnson.

The English language is a medley derived from various sources. By the fondness of man for abbreviated, written, and especially oral communications; by the taste and refinement of those few learned, who have made the improvement of this language their study, it has by various modernizations departed far from its original form. Hence the difficulty of tracing its etymology. If many of its words are apparently, and few or none of them really synonimous, to know their true meaning, and proper application must be an accomplishment of difficult acquisition.

From these observations it is evident, that a considerable share of capacity in judging and reasoning: that a certain maturity of age, and ripeness of intellect are necessary requisites to proficiency in the knowledge of the English language. It will also follow from the foregoing premises, that in conducting the education of youth, it is an excellent mode by exercise of a simple and introductory kind to set those early to work upon the rudiments of English grammar, who are about to be favoured with a liberal education, or are designed to figure in some public profession. Labour and time are necessary to enable the learner to comprehend that connexion of speech and that accurate analysis of words and sentences which are essential to judicious parsing, as well as to that smooth and perspicuous arrangement of ideas in composition, and elocution which will qualify every scholar to move in his own literary sphere with reputation and general utility. To attempt to teach a language grammatically is

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* VIDE Kentish on Burns, and several papers on the same subject, in the London Medical and Physical Journal.

vain, when the period of attending school is very limited, when parents are averse to give their children a liberal education, or design them only for some mechanical employment. It is a useless waste of time to make pupils merely commit a grammar to memory, without acquainting them with the meaning, application, and end of its contents. To give such acquaintance many pedagogues never attempt, who nevertheless, to feed their own vanity, and swindle their employers, make, with pedantic consequence, an ostentatious parade of teaching English Grammar.

In the prosecution of classical learning, perfection in the knowledge and use of the mother tongue, is an object of the first consequence. To acquire this should be a constant and grand aim from the commencement to the termination of classical studies. Men are seldom called to speak or write in foreign languages. The accurate study of these, then, should ever be with a view to attain the more perfect knowledge of the genius, etymology, beauties, and masterly use of our own. Ignorant of it, our own pen exposes us, and we are liable to be detected at every opening of the mouth. The most accurate and critical erudition in the Latin and Greek languages will not qualify a man for writing or speaking good English. By this reasoning we mean not to depreciate the study of the classics. Those ancient compositions possess information and entertainment sufficient to reward the labours of the attentive and discerning student. The perfection of Grecian and Roman learning shine in them; they display ancient manners, splendid virtues and heroic exploits in all the beauties of poetical and prose composition. They communicate important historical facts, and instruction as to the management of nations in peace and war. They contain bright models of variety and copiousness of expression, powers of invention, and strength of imagination; nor have their contents upon geography and agriculture been rendered obsolete by the lapse of time. No inconsiderable portion of the English language is to be traced to a Latin and Greek origin.

The old and vicious custom of learning Latin and Greek in schools, and never introducing an English grammar is happily almost extinct. While this plan was followed, men who could write Latin similar to the pure style of the Augustan age, were nevertheless blunderers in English composition. The literati now begin to think that the English is also a language, an accurate acquaintance with which youth may laudably cultivate. Had the Grecian and Roman writers held the knowledge of their native language as an object of minor importance, they would never have shone forth with such lustre in the republic of letters; nor would learned moderns and critics have enjoyed such opportunity of spreading their own literary fame by lavishing unlimited eulogies on the ancients.

Intellectual treasures, without a capacity to dispose of them for the best private and publick advantage, are as useless as the ore in the mine, or as the hoarded gold, while it remains in the coffers of the miser.

Without the knowledge of grammar, the orations of the public declaimer must exhibit at least a partial display of unintelligible jargon: and the compositions of that author, who possesses even the strongest mind, and produces the finest thoughts, will but merit the name of incoherent rhapsody. Deficient in this department of literature, which is the substratum of eloquence, the barrister is shackled in pleading the cause of his client, the counsels of the senator make slight impression, the statesman and patriot lamely support their country's rights, and bear with feeble force against the torrent of corruption; yea, the divine fails to arrest attention and strike the heart, though he promulgates the benign doctrines and precepts of religion. It will be granted, that in critical situations, when property, character, or life is at stake, the unlettered peasant of strong feelings may make an impressive speech: but still it will be infinitely inferior in point of influence, especially upon the cultivated mind, to that of the substantial grammarian, possessed of like feelings, and placed in a similar situation. Men having a good ear, as

well as sound and discerning judgment, who are daily conversant with correct speakers, may be able to speak and write with some degree of grammatical accuracy. Such persons, though they may be right, do not know it. They are taught by custom and observation, not by rudiments. For the alledged correctness of their productions they can produce no definite rule. A law is not easily kept, the precepts of which are unknown. Besides if these authors or orators have not learned grammar from elementary treatises upon it; they have been endeavouring to glean a portion of its laws, by the circuitous and uncertain mode of consulting men instead of books.

By perfection in the knowledge of language, and skill in the use of it, genius appears on the literary stage, decorated in its best attire; law flows from the seat of justice in all its native purity, and binding force, patriotism and liberty blaze in their genuine splendour; the press enjoying the privilege of rational freedom, teems with improvements in the arts and sciences, in policy and manners; and religion, from the mouth of the messenger of peace, like dew upon the parched field, sheds her refreshing influence upon the thirsty soul.

Ballanahinch. S. E.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ON THE CULTURE OF HEMP.

IN our last number we gave extracts from the agricultural survey of Suffolk, to which we now add, the culture of hemp, as practised in the Isle of Ely and Somersetshire.

The land best calculated for hemp is light, rich, loamy ground—wet or stiff land will not answer: well drained bog, that has been burned and twice planted with potatoes, rape or turnips, will.

The ground to be ploughed in December, harrowed in March and ploughed; and at the time of sowing (which should be from the end of April to the end of May) then ploughed and harrowed, quite level.

Sow your seed broad-cast, twice harrowed, and rolled with a light roller.

Children should attend to keep off the birds until the plant is full two inches above the surface.

The quantity of seed, four bushels to the English acre, and so in proportion to the Irish.

To have what is termed white or summer hemp, you are to pull both male and female, when the flower begins to fall off the male, which will be about 12 or 13 weeks after sowing; tie it in small bundles, and let it stand for a few days in the stook, then bog it from five to ten days in soft clear water, according to the state of the weather. When fit to take out of the water, the green bark will slip off. Spread it on clean grass-land for 10 or 12 days, turning it at least twice. Let it be dry when taken off the grass, it will then be fit for breaking and scutching.

TO PRESERVE SEED.

You must pull the male hemp when the flower drops, taking care to pull paths for the labourers, at the distance of every four yards, so as not to break the female or seed hemp, which will be fit to pull about the middle of September. Tie it in small bundles at the top, and put five together in a stook, the centre bundle to be spread out at the bottom, and the other four round it. They should be left in the stook until perfectly dry, then stacked on a hovel, and let remain until March, when the seed is to be threshed out.

The hemp to be watered from 10 to 15 days, according to the weather, using the like process as with the male or summer hemp, taking care to clean your seed well and keep it dry.

Should the farmer not wish to keep his female hemp until March, he may thresh out the seed when pulled and water his hemp, but it will require more time in the water in the cold season. The seed will not be so good or so easily preserved as when remaining in the stack.

The like process as practised with flax when taken off the grass, will answer for hemp to prepare for hackling.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ESSAY ON BALLAD COMPOSITION.

Continued from p. 330, No. V.

A TALE of the imagination, a recital of supernatural events, a fanciful description may equally be found in the most barbarous as in the most polished nations, and are therefore to be considered as an earlier species of poetical composition than historical Ballads, which commemorate some circumstance that evinces a more advanced and decided trait of national character. Of the latter kind the most interesting in their description, the most simple in their composition, and most affecting in their incidents, are the historic ballads of the Spanish nation, which had early distinguished itself among the principal kingdoms of Europe by actions which have justly been celebrated by the poet and the historian.

The generally irregular metre of Italian poetry, did not admit of that simple uniformity which is the principal grace of ancient songs, and there are therefore few which can boast much merit in that language; besides, the ardent fancy of their writers, unsatisfied with domestic occurrences, however brilliant, chose distant countries for the scene of their events, where imagination, undetected, might heighten the colouring of truth, and it is from this cause that Palestine and Egypt have gained additional lustre from the genius of Italy.

In France the number of native historical ballads is still more limited, as the *tournure* of expression and quaint idioms of that national language are little adapted to such compositions.

In southern Europe the fine arts had long flourished before their influence extended to England; and Poetry, the last in their train, had scarcely been heard to breathe one strain of tenderness or feeling, until the genius of Surry enriched the British language with several beautiful and pathetic sonnets and canzonets. But this delay of the muse was compensated by the several excellent little pieces of historic poetry, with which our language was shortly after embellished; and of these Chevy Chace holds the first rank, as well from the merits of its composition as from having been admired and criticised by an elegant and celebrated writer.

The following extract from an unpublished tale is given as illustrative of Historical Ballads, and in an ensuing Magazine the subject shall be resumed on elegiac songs.

THE TOURNAMENT.

* * * * * * * * * * *

NEXT came a Spanish cavalier,
Whose armour blaz'd with gold,
Whose helmet wav'd with lofty plumes,
Right goodly to behold.

That year he left his native Spain,
Strange courts and realms to see,
And never did Galicia boast
A braver youth than he.

But vain his prowess, vain his skill,
'Gainst Ormisind were found,
Who at his temple aim'd a blow,
That fell'd him to the ground.

So blooms a lily fair and tall,
By some lone river's side,
Till torn by mountain-torrents' fall,
It sinks beneath the tide.

In courtly guise does Mandlebert,
Next to the charge advance,
"In sooth, most gallant knight, with thee
I fain would couch a lance."

"With me, rash boy!" quoth Ormisind,
"Then sorely shalt thou feel,
"That silken fan befits thee more,
"Than sword or lance of steel."

They back their steeds, their bosoms swell,
With martial ardour's glow,
So fierce they rush, that both their spears
Were shiver'd at a blow.

Then quick they draw their flaming swords,
And brandish them on high,
While from each casque of burnish'd steel,
The vivid lightnings fly.

They wheel, they spur their mettled steeds,
That foaming pant for breath,
And every blow from either arm,
Seems fraught with instant death.

Thus long they fought with equal skill,
And doubtful was the fight,
Till one fell blow from Mandlebert,
Unhors'd the green-arm'd knight.

So falls at length beneath the storm,
An oak that long has stood,
In proud extent and stately size,
The monarch of the wood.

Thus far'd Lord Osbert and Sir Hugh,
Who wore the crimson shield,
And eke Sir Brent, who oft before,
Made Pagan chiefs to yield. L.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

ROSA....A MORAL TALE.

Continued from p. 107, No. VII.

ROSA replied not, but taking Janet's arm, proceeded in silence, which was first interrupted by the latter, who breathless and fatigued, found it impossible to keep up with the quick agitated step of our heroine.

"Heigh! Sirs! Lady," she said, "ye dinna conseeder, I'm no sae young as yer bonie sel! time was, when Janet could hae footed it wi' the cantiest chiel; but lake-a-day! we canna be a'ways young!"

Rosa, though extremely anxious to return to her mother, in compliance with Janet's feebleness, walked slower; and they had but one turning to make, before they reached Mrs. Echlin's, when a man, with his hat slouched, passing them quick, jostled against Janet so forcibly, as to throw her down; Rosa uttered a faint scream, and dropping the bundle, assisted her to rise. For a few moments, she received no other answer to her inquiries, if she was hurt, than an unintelligible jargon of Scotch exclamations, against "the vile loon, wha had thrown her doon!" She had at length the satisfaction of ascertaining, that she was not materially injured. She then stooped for her bundle; but her consternation may be better conceived than described, when she perceived no trace of it. A confused recollection of what she had heard, of tricks, and London sharpers, occurred to her, now too late. She groaned in agony, and clasping her hands, frantically exclaimed, "Oh God! what will become of me?" Janet's consternation could only be equalled by her own. Mrs. St. Clair's ghastly countenance was presented to Rosa in fancy.

"Oh! my mother!" she said, "my suffering mother! can I return to see thee die, without food, without nourishment?" Her frame shook with contending emotions. No, no, I will not; I will fly to Mrs. Echlin! Ah! can she reject the truth, when confessed to her? I will work to pay the shirts, and I will implore her, by the blessed spirit of mercy, to advance me sufficient to procure sustenance for my mother!"

Her brain seemed to whirl round, and she rapidly darted forward, forgetful of poor Janet, who finding it impossible to overtake her, and not knowing whither to follow her, determined to return to tell "the guid auld lady, what had befa'n her bonie bit lassie;" and to relate her fears, "that it had a' at yince jumpet into the puir thing's brains, for she rinn'd as gin she had ta'en leave o' her senses!" In the interim, poor Rosa, wild and breathless, presented herself before Mrs. Echlin. To an unprejudiced observer, her agitation, and the unaffected distress her tale bespoke, would have brought immediate conviction of its truth; but added to a character, by no means amiable or compassionate, the malicious Mrs. Woodly had already poured her poison of detraction into a bosom, but too ready to receive it. Even had Rosa had the good fortune to bring home the shirts in safety, Mrs. Echlin had determined to employ her no more. In such a disposition, she either really did, or what is more likely, affected to disbelieve the whole account.

"A likely story, indeed!" she repeated, viewing the trembling Rosa, with the most pointed contempt. "And so my pretty one, you only lost them a short distance from this; and by some naughty fellow throwing down an old woman too; why did you not bring her also to verify the truth of your assertions? You must hang your next tale better together, child; but dont think I'm to be imposed on, by such a trumped up story; no, no, I know better, you shall be made confess.

"Good Heavens! Madam," said the heart struck Rosa, "you surely do not suspect?"

"Suspect," reiterated Mrs. Echlin. "No, no, but I am quite sure! here Sally! go and tell James to run for a constable; I will see whether I cannot have justice."

"Oh God! you will not, cannot be so cruel," Rosa frantically exclaimed, clinging to the girl, "I adjure you by mercy, by truth, not to condemn me. I am innocent! Oh my mother! my dying mother! prophetic was the last agonized glance I gave you!" Totally overcome she sunk into a chair, while Mrs. Echlin, unmoved by her anguished

exclamations, calmly told the girl, "to go where she desired her;" and she was on the point of obeying her, when a young man of fashionable appearance, who seemed perfectly acquainted with Mrs. Echlin, entered. He said, "he had merely called to take refuge from a curs'd crowd which had collected round a fellow, who had been taken up at a pawn-broker's, under suspicion of pawning a bundle of stolen shirts."

"They are found! they are found! Oh bless you! heaven bless you!" screamed Rosa, and sunk senseless on the floor.

When she again recovered, she found herself supported in the gentleman's arms, whose entrance had relieved her from the fear of being placed under the jurisdiction of a constable; while Mrs. Echlin on one side officiously administered salts.

"Oh dear Miss! how much you have alarmed me," she said, "I am sure I dont think I will get the better of it this month; but I sincerely hope you find yourself recovered." Rosa as she raised herself from her supporter's arms, almost thought, as she took notice to the altered tone of the woman, that she had not yet thoroughly regained her senses.

"I am sure his honour here" continued Mrs. Echlin "has been almost in a state of distraction. But to be sure, there's few like him, so good natured! so compassionate!" Rosa now turned to take a view of his honour who had hitherto stood in silence, at the back of her chair; and her glance was met by a look of such licentious admiration, that it at once impressed her with the danger of her situation; and hastily rising, she addressed Mrs. Echlin.

"You have I trust, madam, obtained a clue to enable you to gain your shirts; and are convinced of the injustice done me by your suspicions."

"Aye to be sure, ma'am, 'twas an ugly mistake, and I have been vexing myself ever since that I had the luck to say any thing about them; for his honour here has been so generous as to say, that even had they been lost, he would pay for them, and twice as many more, rather than you should spoil your pretty eyes with odious work, and if you will only prove grateful, your mother nor you either shall ever want."

Rosa answered her by a look of contempt, and made a movement towards the door; but the woman intercepted her passage, and the gentleman advanced, and to add to Rosa's terror she now perceived he was in a state of intoxication.

"Lovely angel!" he said, forcibly detaining her, "Mrs. Echlin says true; my life, my soul, my fortune, are devoted to your service, small sacrifices if I can obtain your smiles."

"Unhand me, sir!" said Rosa, indignantly struggling with her emotions. "No, no, my lovely girl, you cannot think me such an ideot, as to neglect so favourable an opportunity;" and he endeavoured to force her into the room.

The reason of Rosa, "like a frightened spirit," was again retreating, when the shop door opened, and a customer entered, and with a swiftness which madness only could have given her, she eluded his grasp, and darting down the street, was out of sight in a moment. With an agility, which mocked all pursuit, she hurried along several streets; nor did her scattered faculties permit her to perceive, that her wild walk, and frenzied looks, attracted universal attention. "She is a lunatic! she has escaped from a mad house!" shouted several. "Let us seize her," said a rough looking man, catching her by the robe. A soul-piercing shriek burst from Rosa. "Oh mercy Heaven!" she frantickly exclaimed, "*I* am innocent!" and springing on the steps of a genteel looking house, she sunk senseless against the door.

But here poor Rosa was fortunate. The spirit of benevolence presided within these walls, in the form of the widowed Mrs. Cleveland; who checking the ungenerous suspicions of the multitude, compassionately ordered a servant to convey the hapless victim into the house, and close the door. Rosa now with glazed eye, glanced wildly around her. Mrs. Cleveland took her hand, but dropped it with horror; for it was burning with the rage of fever.

"I am innocent! indeed I am!" said the poor maniac, "look not so suspiciously on me! but oh! take me to my mother! she will die! my God! she will die!" she more franticly ejaculated. "Janet left me too! and you! you will cruelly, keep me here! I cannot pay for the shirts! they were taken from me! but I am innocent!"

"Poor young creature!" sighed Mrs. Cleveland, gazing on her with pity, "I hope thou art: at all events, in protecting thee, I err on the right side."

A bed was now prepared, the family physician sent for, and every attention necessary procured for the poor invalid. But for more than ten days, the strength of the disorder baffled their utmost efforts. During this time, her ravings were so incoherent, that Mrs. Cleveland could discover no connected clue, to guide her to a knowledge of her friends, or relieve their anxiety. But the moment Rosa was perfectly awake to her present situation, she related to Mrs. Cleveland her simple tale of truth, and in accents of real anguish, implored her to send, and inquire after her mother. The benevolent Mrs. Cleveland lost no time in complying with her entreaties, and lest a servant should mistake, visited the humble house of Janet, herself; but alas! the intelligence she gained, was of the most fatal nature. Mrs. St. Clair, awaked from her uneasy slumber by the uncouth exclamations of Janet, listened to the account of Rosa's loss, and the consequent rapidity with which she darted from Janet's side, with a silence uninterrupted, except by a heavy groan: Janet surprized that she did not answer, hastily drew aside the curtain. In that groan the spirit of the unfortunate Mrs. St. Clair had evaporated, and there remained of her but the ghastly form of death.

"They waited," Janet continued, "twa days for the young lady, when her neibours, ane and a', came and counselled wi' her, to sell a pairt o' her lodger's cleeding, to get the guid lady decently happet up in the kirk yard; she did sae," she said, "and the guid madam attended by her neibours, and hersel, was on that day four days laid in a wee bit village, short o' a mile frae the skirts o' the city, a' that remained," she said, "was unco safe, for the puir young lady, gin she e'er ca'd, to ask for them, and here," she continued, taking from her pocket a very handsome locket, with hair in it, of two different colours, "here was a bonie bit thing, she had about her neck, which, nae doubt, Miss would be glad to hae, and whilk I'll preserve till I see her pretty face."

Mrs. Cleveland was so deeply affected with Janet's simple tale of woe, that unable to articulate, she pressed her purse into the good old creature's hand, and with a heart overwhelmed with the emotions of sorrow and benevolence, she hastened to break the intelligence to Rosa.

Mrs. Cleveland was the widow of one of the most dissipated men of his age; who not only contrived, ere he fell a victim to his debaucheries, to spend a considerable property she brought him, but to ruin her happiness, and impair her health. On his death, Mrs. Cleveland with a fortitude that did her honour, summoned his numerous creditors; and in the fulfilment of justice retained for herself, nothing but her jointure, about four hundred a year. In default of her issue, it was to descend to the children of a favoured sister, who resided in Ireland; and as Mrs. Cleveland continued childless, the property was considered as their own. Mrs. Cleveland's establishment was genteel, though not profuse; her society as much as possible selected, and her hand and her heart equally open to the melting impulses of charity. Her health during Mr. Cleveland's life, had been too much impaired, to be ever perfectly reinstated; and she had often wished for an interesting female companion, who would soothe the lassitude of sickness by the charms of conversation, and relieve her at times by doing the honours of her house. Just such a one had Providence, she thought, bestowed her in Rosa; young, deserted, and interesting; and her bosom swelled with the most benevolent plans for her welfare. The intelligence she had to communicate, though conveyed in the tenderest

manner, was the occasion of a severe relapse of Rosa's fever; and slow and tedious was her second recovery; for it was corroded by the bitter tears shed for a departed mother.

On this gloomy season however we will not dwell; nor on her melancholy meeting with the good old Janet, from whom she received the locket, which she had been often told by her mother, contained the hair of both parents; though she knew not but her father had been long dead. Mrs. Cleveland amply rewarded the affection of Janet, and while Rosa in the broken accents of a grateful heart, acknowledged her goodness, she entreated her to crown it all, by permitting her to accompany Janet on a visit to the grave of her mother. To this Mrs. Cleveland, after some time thought it better to consent, than to agitate her by contradiction; but with her usual consideration, determined to accompany her; and as her income by no means allowed the support of a carriage, she ordered a hackney coach, for privacy, and in a few hours, they, with Janet, were set down at a small public house, in the village, whence they walked to the humble church yard; which was picturesquely situated in a green and hollow dell, surrounded with wild woodbine, and roses; and here in a little sheltered spot, Janet pointed out Mrs. St. Clair's grave. Tall weeds, intermingled with wild flowers, waved over the humble mound; and a plain white stone erected by the orders of Mrs. Cleveland, simply told the name of the deceased. Rosa's heart throbbed with a variety of emotions. "My mother! my angel mother!" she feebly articulated, as she sunk on the grave, and the long grass concealed her burning tears. Mrs. Cleveland suffered the first torrent to flow, ere she disturbed her. She then insisted on her departure, and pale, and cold as marble, she suffered herself to be led away; yet it was with a pang, that almost annihilated existence.

A long and gloomy period of dejection now ensued; but the youthful heart is not formed to despair, and the stroke which would crush the debility of age, presses lightly on the elastic spirit of youth. Rosa's disposition was naturally very lively; but hitherto it had been crushed, and its energies repelled by continued misfortune. But now, beloved by Mrs. Cleveland; introduced to a large circle of friends, to every one of whom, she was their dear incomparable Rosa; every word she said applauded; every look admired; what wonder, that her heart gave the credence of truth to all she heard, and that fond visions of felicity danced in rosy forms before her?

Rosa thought the generality of her acquaintance amiable; but there was one in particular enthusiastically regarded; loved almost to a degree impassioned. She was a young widow, a favourite also with Mrs. Cleveland: left by her husband, in rather confined circumstances, Mrs. Lendrick by the most strenuous efforts, had placed herself, and three children, in a genteel situation of life. A congeniality of sentiment appeared to unite her and Rosa. Just so enthusiastic were her feelings, just so warm her approbation of genius and worth. Rosa stiled her the sister of her heart; and dear was she then to that heart, as the warm blood which circled round it.

Ah Rosa! unsuspecting Rosa! you have yet to learn a harsh lesson, envenomed with the bitterness of despair; you have yet to learn the agony of finding deceit in the being you confided in; to learn, that not all who say you are dear to them, are sincere; that many conceal under the mask of professions, the ranklings of hatred and malice; and that few, few, are like yourself, guileless and warm-hearted.

Rosa, though she had devoted her heart to friendship, had as yet experienced no warmer sentiments, but she was not long permitted to remain insensible to them. A gentleman who was extremely intimate with Mrs. Cleveland, requested her permission to introduce to her notice, a young foreigner, who had been making a tour through England; and as yet had formed but few intimacies in the metropolis. The naiveté of Mr. de Clifford's broken English; his elegant manners, added to a gaiety, which

spread its influence all around him, irresistibly called forth Rosa's most animated admiration. Her vanity was also highly flattered by the decided attention he paid her from the moment he was introduced. Our Rosa was no faultless monster. She was much too romantic, and too hasty in many of her judgments; and ere many weeks elapsed, the interesting stranger found her warm heart all his own. Mrs. Cleveland beheld this attachment with mingled pleasure and pain. Her own health was precarious, and declining; and she certainly wished to to see Rosa settled, ere she should be called from her; but those wishes rather pointed at others whose establishment and connections could be more decidedly ascertained. Rosa, however, thought not so cautiously, for hers was the season of youth and credulity.

When Mr. De Clifford laid his proposals before Mrs. Cleveland, she seriously questioned him, as to the propriety of his entering into so important an engagement without the consent of his friends. The young Swiss replied, "That his father never had, and he was convinced never would contradict his wishes, and that no other of his friends had a right to controul him, nor had he a doubt of his Rosa's meeting a reception worthy of her, in his native country."

"You intend then," said Mrs. Cleveland, turning pale, "to take her immediately to Switzerland?" "With your permission, certainly, Madam."

Mrs. Cleveland's heart felt chilled, though she knew not wherefore. "Would it not be better," she continued, in a tremulous voice, "to defer your marriage till you can prepare a proper establishment for your wife, in your native country?" This the impassioned wishes of the young man at once rejected; but as he still perceived Mrs. Cleveland hesitate, he added, "that if permitted to make his Rosa his own, irrevocably beyond the power of fate to snatch her from him, he would in a short time consent to leave the treasure of his heart under her protection, until he made a voyage to Switzerland, to prepare his friends to receive her. At that period," he somewhat haughtily added, "I doubt not of bringing documents with me, sufficiently respectable to convince her, that in promising her happiness as far as I can be the means of making her happy and ensuring her a kind reception, I say not too much. For the present, I have bills on the bank of England, more than sufficient for our support until I reach home."

A glance of entreaty from the dark eye of Rosa, who was present, joined to this generous offer, induced Mrs. Cleveland to form no more objections, which she also saw would be useless, and the young couple were made happy in the accomplishment of their mutual wishes. As Mrs. Cleveland's health, however, was much too precarious to permit her to share in, or endure the routine of visiting, which generally attends a wedding, Mr. De Clifford took genteel lodgings for his wife, and they shone forth at once the meteors and the favourites of the season. Mrs. De Clifford was even more loved, more sought after than Rosa St. Clair, and none was more fervent in her wishes for her happiness, none more profuse in her professions of friendship, or apparently more rejoiced in her prospects than Mrs. Lendrick; yet, Rosa was not happy. She found, too late, that Mr. De Clifford was not "all that youthful poets fancy, when they love". His broken English gave him a pleasing appearance of simplicity of character; this he by no means possessed, and an enthusiasm of manner, which promised the man of taste and genius, and which he had mechanically attained, was of considerable advantage to him. Here precisely was it, his character failed—His mind could not assimilate with Rosa's—he was by no means the intelligent, the enlightened companion she expected to find him. Volatile, and fond of company, he existed but in a croud. The emanations of genius or sentiment he heard unmoved, and though he seemed to adore Rosa, yet he often treated her opinions on these points with a degree of ridicule which deeply wounded her. It was his most ardent wish to see her admired, yet like a way-ward child, when his desires were gratified he quarrelled with them, and jealous of the least attention she

paid to another, would often interrupt, and snatch her from the most pleasing conversation. Rosa in vain strove to change the current of his ideas, and attach him to domestic life; till at length, chilled by frequent repulses, she endeavoured to crush in her own heart every sentiment which had formerly inspired it; and tried to soften the bitterness of disappointment by plunging with equal avidity as himself into every amusement.

To be concluded in our next.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

THE enclosed account of the progress of vaccination in Ireland, taken from the report of the Institution in Dublin, will, no doubt, obtain ready admission in your pages; some of which, I perceive, have been already devoted to the consideration of this subject. The annexed paper may be useful in removing the prejudices which still exist against the new practice. More extensive publication may also introduce this valuable discovery more generally through the country parts of Ireland, in many parts of which it has not as yet obtained the notice its merits deserve. A list of subscribers is annexed to the report, which I have not transmitted, as I did not wish to obtrude any unnecessary matter on you. On perusing it, I took notice, not without some regret, that there is no subscriber to the Institution from Belfast, and but one from its neighbourhood. I sincerely hope that the perusal of the following plain statement will induce some individuals of your public-spirited town, to become its advocates, and to disseminate its value more generally through the north of Ireland, by establishing a society here on similar principles, or opening a communication with that in Dublin, so as to render the merits of Vaccine Inoculation more generally known and understood. I am, Sir,

Yours, GALENIUS.

March 2d, 1809.

COW-POCK INSTITUTION,

Under the patronage of his Grace, the Lord Lieutenant, No. 55, Sackville-street.

OPENED on the 14th of January, 1804, under the direction of the undersigned Physicians and Surgeons of this City, for the purposes of securing a succession of Cow-Pock Matter, of inoculating gratuitously the Children of the Poor, and of supplying the different parts of the Kingdom with genuine Infection.

Physicians.	*Surgeons.*
Joseph Clarke,	George Stewart,
James Cleghorn,	Ralph S. Obre,
Thomas Evory.	Solomon Richards.

An Abstract from the Register of Inoculations and Distribution of Matter.

	Patients Inoculated.	Packets issued to Practitioners in general.	Packets to Army Surgeons.
1804	578	776	236
1805	1,032	1,124	178
1806	1,356	1,340	220
1807	2,156	1,790	320
1808	3,002	2,285	333
Totals.	8,124	7,315	1,287

By the foregoing Abstract from the Register of Inoculations and Distribution of Infection, it appears, that the applications for inoculation and supplies of infection increase daily.—The Directors of the Cow-Pock Institution observe, with great satisfaction, that the practice is every day becoming more general, so as to have nearly accomplished, in some parts of Ireland, the extermination of Small Pox. Much credit is due to those Medical Gentlemen, who, by using their utmost exertions and holding out every inducement to all descriptions of people, have succeeded in establishing Vaccination in several districts. The Clergy also, have been of essential service, many of whom inoculate the poor of their respective parishes.

The Incorporated Society have directed, that the practice be adopted in the Charter Schools and Nurseries throughout Ireland. It would be well, if the example were followed by others entrusted with the care of Public Charities, Schools, &c. and those employing young people in Manufactories.

Of *Eight Thousand One Hundred and Twenty Four* patients vaccinated at the Cow-pock Institution, exclusive of a great number inoculated by the Directors in private practice, many hundreds have been exposed, in every possible way, to the contagion of Small Pox, and even inoculated for the disease, yet the Register does not furnish a single instance of Small Pox follow-

ing perfect Vaccination, although every case of reputed failure has been carefully investigated. Such facts, it is presumed, cannot fail to arrest public attention.

The Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons of London, Dublin and Edinburgh have, after a most minute and impartial examination, given their opinion in favour of the new inoculation. And the London College do not hesitate to declare, "That they feel it their duty strongly to recommend the practice of Vaccination; that they have been led to this conclusion by no preconceived opinion, but by the most unbiassed judgment, formed from an irresistable weight of evidence which has been laid before them; and that when the number, the respectability, the disinterestedness, and the extensive experience of its advocates, are compared with the feeble and imperfect testimonies of its few opposers,—and when it is considered that many who were once adverse to Vaccination have been convinced by further trials, and are now to be ranked among its warmest supporters, the truth seems to be established as firmly as the nature of such a question admits; so that the College of Physicians conceive that the public may reasonably look forward with some degree of hope to the time when all opposition shall cease, and the general concurrence of mankind shall at length be able to put an end to the ravages at least, if not to the existence, of the Small Pox."

The Directors have given extensive circulation to the very satisfactory report of the College of Physicians of London, which they conceive, has materially strengthened the public confidence in Vaccination. And, if there be any, who still entertain doubts, to such, they recommend a careful perusal of the Article on Vaccination, in the 17th Number of the Edinburgh Review.

Although no case of Small Pox following Vaccination has hitherto come before the Directors, they do not doubt the possibility of the occurrence, such having been reported upon respectable authority. Similar failures, it is well known, have happened in variolous inoculation. While Vaccination affords equal security to the constitution, it avowedly possesses many advantages over Small Pox inoculation. For instance, of the above 8,124 cases, the Cow Pock has not proved fatal in a single instance, neither has it produced blindness, nor other species of deformity; whereas, had the like number been inoculated with Small Pox, one in a hundred would in all probability have perished, and several remained blind and subject to every species of deformity: and what is still a more serious evil, such a number infected with Small Pox, would spread the contagion in all directions, so as to be productive of incalculable mischief. The child of a poor room-keeper in this city, who was inoculated with Small Pox, infected nine children in the same house, of whom six died. Had Cow Pock been used, six lives would have been saved, and much trouble to the wretched parents prevented.

The extreme prevalence of Chicken-pock, during the present year, attended occasionally with considerable indisposition, gave rise to some embarrassment. Many children who had had the Cow Pock, being seized with the complaint, were at first supposed to have the Small Pox; by attending however to the progress and appearance of the eruption, the nature of the disease was ascertained, and all doubt removed. The father of a child on whom the Chicken Pock appeared after vaccination, was certain that it was Small Pox, nor could he be convinced of his error, until the disease spread to other children who before had the Small Pox.

The Directors, satisfied from their own experience and from accumulated evidence derived from the most respectable sources, feel confident in recommending vaccination; and they hope the practice in Ireland, will continue to have the sanction and support of the Medical Profession, the Clergy, and the Public in general.

SAMUEL B. LABATT, Sec.

December 31, 1808.

Packets of infection, with printed directions, two shillings and sixpence each: or Gentlemen may be supplied for one guinea per annum—Surgeons of the army to be supplied by applying to the Army Medical Board.

Permission having been obtained to transmit Letters relating to the Institution, through the Post Office, *Free of Expence*: those applying for Cow-Pock Matter, are requested to direct as follows:

"On the business of the Cow-Pock Institution,
DR. LABATT, Secretary,
No. 55, Sackville Street."

And such Letters to be sent under cover, addressed thus:

"EDWARD S. LEES, Esq.
General Post-Office, Dublin."

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

INQUIRER has, with great propriety, brought before the view of the public the two jarring or contradictory accounts which have been published, in the *Belfast*, and in the *Gentleman's Almanack*, respecting the eclipse which is to take place the latter end of the ensuing month, for the laudable purpose of ascertaining which of them, if either, is correct. Agreeably, therefore, to his request, I shall attempt to place the subject in a clear point of view, so as to enable him at any time to know with certainty when an eclipse is to happen, whether it will be *solar* or *lunar*.

An eclipse of the sun, is occasioned by the moon, which is an opaque body, being interposed between the earth and the sun; but such interposition cannot take place at any other time than that of *new moon*, hence it is evident, that no eclipse of the sun can possibly take place at any other time; and as there will be an eclipse on the 29th of next month, but the *new moon* not being at the same time, that cannot be a *solar eclipse*.

An eclipse of the moon is occasioned by the earth being in a right line between the sun and moon, and preventing the light of the former from shining on the latter, and rendering her luminous; but the earth is not in this situation at any other time than at that of *full moon*, consequently there can be no eclipse of the moon but at the time of *full*,—and we find that the middle of the ensuing eclipse and time of full moon differ but six minutes, of course the eclipse must be lunar, as announced in the Belfast Almanack. The error committed in the Gentleman's Almanack on this subject, is, in my opinion, merely typographical, and not to be attributed to the calculator. G. T.

Belfast, March 12, 1809.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ACCOUNT OF THE BARONY OF ARMAGH.

Concluded from p. 98, *No. VII.*

THE origin of this establishment will be found in the extracts from Harris' Hibernica, which are subjoined in the appendix to this work; but the school was not actually endowed till the reign of Charles I, as appears from the statutes.

From the earliest accounts of literature in Ireland it appears, that the city of Armagh was famous for learning; and church discipline was studied here with great exactness. It is said, so eminent was the College of Armagh for learned divines, that, in a synod, held in the abbey of Clane, in the county of Kildare, anno 1162, which consisted of the archbishop of Armagh, twenty-six bishops, and numerous abbots, it was decreed, under a solemn act, that no student should be admitted a professor of theology in the national church, who had not a certificate of his having duly graduated in the College of Armagh. And, in the Monasticon Hibernicum, it is copied from the Annals of Innisfallen, that "Roderic O'Conchobhair, king of Connaught, anno 1169, to advance learning in this university, granted to the head master an additional annual pension of ten oxen, and bound his successors to fulfil the said grant, on condition that a public school should be there kept open for all scholars from every part of Ireland and Scotland." In Sir James Ware's Antiquities of Ireland, he quotes, on the statement of Florence M'Carthy, that the number of students at one time exceeded seven thousand.

The instances, which I mentioned, of Lord Rokeby's regard for the prosperity of Armagh were gratefully felt by the inhabitants, and called forth their public spirit in an eminent degree. New streets were built, and all the offensive obstacles to improvement, or which this city had

been almost proverbially notorious, were removed; a strict observance of the police, and laws of the corporation was enforced; the streets paved and flagged; lamps were erected, and the best houses were adorned with iron railing in front. An elegant sessions-house was built at this time, and also a very handsome edifice for public assemblies, the profits of which were to be applied to charitable purposes. In this latter building the ball-room is sixty feet by thirty, with card and supper rooms on a large scale, and the kitchens and servants' apartments are suitably laid out. This building is not yet completed; I understand it has remained these some years past in its present state.

Lord Rokeby's purse was always ready to contribute to these laudable improvements, which were carried on under his sole direction, and proved his correct taste and judgment for all public works.

A very complete shambles, which are well enclosed, and elegantly constructed, were erected by him, and at his sole expense; and he set on foot the important work of supplying the town with pipe-water, which was not completed till after his death.

Lord Viscount Cremorne, who has a very fine property in this vicinity, handed over to the corporation the sum of 1000*l.* for the forwarding of this public work, which was by subscription lately completed. Pumps, at proper distances, are erected through the streets, for public use.

The barracks are of modern date, and are a very handsome building, well designed, covering an extensive area, which is well enclosed, and stands on a fine open eminence, fully commanding the county gaol, which is contiguous.

The gaol is also a modern and complete building, standing on a plain, with every advantage of good air, and proper accommodations for the prisoners; it is admirably planned as to strength and security.

I must here remark, that in every approach to this capital town, the grand appearance of public buildings, and the numerous improved demesnes in the environs, convey to the stranger the most respectable ideas of this district, which are by no means lessened as he enters the city, the streets being principally rebuilt on a regular elevation, and the houses neatly slated, almost all of them having marble window-stools, door-cases, and parapets, or eve courses. Indeed, in point of convenience of building materials, Armagh is very happily circumstanced, and is remarkably well situated, contiguous to the ports of Newry and Dundalk, for the supply of such necessaries as we cannot command at home.

The market place is triangular, and is on the declivity of the hill on which the cathedral stands; at the base are the ruins of a market house, which was begun by Primate Bolton, but I do not learn that it was ever completely finished. The best front faced the cathedral, and between these two buildings is the antique mutilated market cross.

It appears that the top of the cross has been damaged; the symbolic subject is Christ's crucifixion between the thieves, in old basso-relievo; the others are so much obliterated, that I leave their solution to more expert antiquarians; they appear rather a kind of rude ornamental fret-work, than any distinct characters.

The trade of Armagh is principally engaged in the linen manufacture, the market for which is held on Tuesdays, and it is averaged that 7000*l.* are weekly expended for webs in this market.

In so extensive and well appointed a town, it is unnecessary to mention that every necessary and useful branch of manufacture, the woollen trade only excepted, is more or less engaged in, sufficient for the supply of its inhabitants, and the country around; but though severally respectable, they are not of any particular note, nor have extensive capitals engaged in them.

The present Primate intends to present the town with an elegant market house at his own expense, and, as in point of situation, the county court-house is deemed very inconvenient, and an estimate of a new and grand edifice, to the amount of 6000*l.* for this purpose, is now before the grand jury, his Grace intends the site of the present building for that of the market-

house, which is certainly the best place it could be erected on, from its central situation and contiguity to the market place; the ruins of the present market house are indeed a disgrace to the town, and ill correspond with any of its public buildings. His Grace also intends to promote, as much as possible, the sale of wheat in this market, which it is strangely deficient in, as the principal part of this grain, which is raised in the vicinity, is sold in Portadown market.

A very fine mall, or terrace, has been lately enclosed with a dwarf wall, dyke, and iron gates, within which is a neat gravel walk, encompassing a lawn, for the enclosing of which Lord Rokeby procured an act of parliament, and it is but lately finished. This work was completed by subscription, which will be returned, as the rent produced from the lawn in some years will repay both principal and interest, after which the property of the land is vested in the sovereign and corporation of Armagh, by which the town is governed; it is but justice to this body to remark, that by their attention the police of this city is well regulated, nor is the eye disgusted, nor the passenger annoyed with any of those nuisances which too frequently disgrace many of the most respectable towns in Ireland.

Having faintly traced the princely munificence, the splendid liberality, and elegant taste of Lord Rokeby, in the city, we see in the adjoining demesne of the Primate a most magnificent palace, which he built for the residence of the archbishops of this see, and on this site he erected a very grand chapel for the use of the Primate's family, suitable to so princely a residence.

His Lordship also ornamented and planted the demesne in the highest modern style, which the present Primate has now occupied with the most improved systems of husbandry; indeed his Grace's farm-yard, implements of husbandry, and mode of culture, afford a bright example to the gentry, of what their valuable demesnes could yield under judicious management.

In the Primate's demesne a very elegant obelisk was erected by Lord Rokeby, in compliment to the late Duke of Northumberland, his lordship's friend and patron, on which is engraved a suitable inscription; this pillar is very ornamental, and cost above 1000*l.*

In the unlimited extension of Lord Rokeby's views, which were suitable to his generosity, his Grace had contemplated the pulling down the present Cathedral*, and erecting a very fine one at his own expense, when the old work of the tower proved too decayed to support a steeple and belfry; and, had he lived, he would doubtless have accomplished it. If any public work had not a fund sufficient for its completion, after a subscription had been taken, to which his Lordship was always a liberal donor, he lent the remainder of the required sum, for which he would never receive any interest.

There is scarcely a precedent of such a magnificent fortune having been expended, during the life of the proprietor, on the improvement of his own estate for the benefit of his heirs; how eminently luminous then was the generous spirit of Lord Rokeby, who bestowed all these advantages and solid gifts to the public, from which his family could never derive any revenue? I do not presume to say, that a life of celibacy should be one of the necessary qualifications for a public employment of great emolument, for without a liberal spirit it will avail but little, but happy it is for the nation, when such trusts are honoured in the care of so resplendent a generosity and correct taste, as the late Lord Rokeby possessed, and it is fortunate for the public, that those eminent virtues were not restrained in his Lordship by a matrimonial connection†. Had his Grace a wife or children, such a distribution

* His Grace the present Primate intends to build a Chapel of Ease to the Cathedral in the vicinity of Armagh, contiguous to the barracks and school, which is very requisite, as the Cathedral is quite too small for the large and encreasing congregation of this city.

† That his Grace was not an advocate for a life of celibacy is certain, but a disappointment in an attachment had, in early life, fixed his resolution of remaining single.

of his fortune would have been an unjust and unwarrantable sacrifice.

The virtues of this great man are too well recorded to require panegyric. My readers will doubtless expect to learn, that a kind acknowledgment of his eminent qualifications and liberality has been paid in the erection of a splendid monument to his memory, and in these pages to see copied an epitaph suitable to his love of literature, displaying the grateful feelings of the nation for the general good they derive from his liberality; of the opulent city of Armagh, for the local benefits she enjoys from his bounty; or of his lordship's successors, to whom he bequeathed such an ample fortune; but sorry am I to say, that no such affectionate memorial is in existence.

Although Lord Rokeby's virtues will not be forgotten, when the frail monuments of human ingenuity have mouldered into dust, yet so long as this dutiful tribute, this just debt is unpaid, the strong contrast of his Grace's liberality will add shame to the reproach, and confirm the disgrace either in a particular or in a general view.

Respecting this ancient see of Armagh, it is indeed a matter of surprize there are no public records. A few books or papers were purchased or procured from his friends by Lord Rokeby, which he bequeathed in such a manner, that they are not easily accessible, being left to the governors of the library in trust, the archbishop, for the time being, having power to take away any of them, provided he gives a receipt, binding upon him and his executors; and in his will he adds these remarkable words: "*My intention is, that the librarian, and the governors of the library, shall be excluded from the examination of these manuscripts, and that the trust shall extend no further than to the means of their preservation.*"

The antiquarian must therefore arrest his curiosity; it would be highly improper, if not impertinent, to wish to make public their contents, when a man, of such superior understanding had reason to confide them to but one person in existence, and which doubtless he had every right to dispose of as he thought proper, they having been his private property. As the cause of this extraordinary concealment cannot be explained, it would be unjust, and ungenerous in the extreme to the memory of his Grace, were we to impute it to any illiberal motive, as to so base a principle his whole conduct through life was a direct contradiction.

The city of Armagh sent two members to parliament before the union, it now returns but one; the Primate has the patronage of the borough.

The county infirmary is within the town, and is very punctually attended to; besides the regular county charge, it is maintained by very liberal subscriptions and some annual bequests.

A charter school was founded in Armagh anno 1758, to which the Primate and corporation of Armagh gave twenty acres of land for ever, rent free, for the site and accommodation of the house: The first endowment of this charity was a gift of 40*l.* per annum, being a rent charge from Mrs. Drelincourt, widow of the dean of the see; it is now a noble institution and the most extensive of any of the kind in Ireland. COOTE'S *Survey of Armagh.*

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

THE AUCTION.

Mercury.

THE hour is nearly arrived, and no purchasers have yet made their apperance. I fear we shall have a dull sale to-day.

Jupiter. Very possibly. In the mean time, however, put the several articles in their best dress, and brush them up carefully, that they may appear to advantage, and may invite bidders to purchase.

Mer. I shall do every thing in my power to recommend them to the attention of the company. *Jup.* I see a few coming forward; you had better prepare the lots and put the goods in order.

Mer. Gentlemen, attend. There will be no trust. Good bills will be taken, and an allowance of 5 per cent for ready cash. *Jup.* Begin with two or three private characters: it is better to reserve persons of distinction till more purchasers shall be assembled.

Mer. Here, Gentlemen, is a very gay and costly article; a lady of fashion. Her very dress, you see, is almost

worth an estate. *Bidder.* Very pretty, indeed. But what occasion have I for all this finery? What would you have me do with all these ribbands, and strings, and trumpery? Did I want an article indeed such as a looking glass, that is only intended to be looked at, this might suit well enough. I want a wife, or a house-keeper, and I am afraid I shall not be accommodated in the present instance. May I ask the creature a few questions?

Mer. By all means. *Bid.* Pray, Madam, may I take the liberty of asking you what accomplishments you may have to recommend you. *Lady Trifle.* Accomplishments, Sir! Do you question the accomplishments of a lady of my rank and fashion? I protest you put me quite into an agitation. O, I shall faint, if I am not supported! You monster, you insipid brute, to insult me so. *Bid.* I beg pardon, but I meant no offence. I merely wished to know what you were good for, before I bought you.

Jup. It is right, I command you to answer the gentleman discreetly and civilly. *Bid.* May I inquire then concerning your qualifications? *Lady T.* I dress better than Lady Fribble and all the fashionables. I laid out an hundred pounds last week on a head-dress. *Bid.* I have no hundreds for such purposes. But besides your perfect knowledge of dress, what other good qualities are you possessed of? *Lady T.* I spent five years under the care of Mr. Rigadoon, the dancing-master. *Bid.* Well, and what then? *Lady T.* I was very much improved. *Bid.* A rare perfection truly. 'Tis to me a new discovery, that there may be improvement in the heels as well as the head. It is a good thing, I find, for a lady to be able to jump, and fling, and kick, and show her legs. This is modern delicacy, I presume. I am satisfied with the humble ambition of being able to *walk*. *Lady T.* I have studied Hoyle. *Bid.* Pray what is that? *Lady T.* O la! you don't know Hoyle! *Bid.* I am really ashamed to say I have not studied that author. May I take the liberty of asking on what branch of science or history he has written? *Lady T.* Why I really cannot say to which the subject belongs; but he has written on cards. *Bid.* It is usual for composers to write on *paper*. He has printed on *cards*, perhaps for the amusement of children. *Lady T.* O you dull creature, you mistake me entirely. The *subject* he has written on is *cards*. *Bid.* Indeed! How is that? *Lady T.* Why he has made cards the subject of his descriptions. *Bid.* Still unintelligible. *Lady T.* Why, can't you comprehend that he has described how to play cards? *Bid.* Truly no; pray what are cards? *Lady T.* You don't know what cards are? They are bits of pasteboard that have different figures stamped upon them. *Bid.* So then your author has written about these stamped pieces of pasteboard! *Lady T.* He has. *Bid.* And what has he said about them? *Lady T.* He has described the way of playing them. *Bid. Playing* them; pray, what is that? *Lady T.* Why, I really do not know how I shall answer that question; generally when you play cards you throw them down and take them up. *Bid.* So this author whom you have studied has taught you how to throw bits of pasteboard about the room. This may do well enough for children; but I can't see how grown persons can be entertained by it. What is the use of throwing the cards about as you have described? *Lady T.* To win money. *Bid.* How is that? *Lady T.* Why what is lost by one is gained by another. *Bid.* I understand you not, nor can I comprehend what gain or loss there can be in this childish business, farther than the loss of —— time. *Lady T.* I gain sometimes. *Bid.* And lose sometimes I suppose? *Lady T.* O yes; one cannot always win. It was only last week that Mr. Sharp, the actor, won from me a cool hundred, at cribbage; but it was merely an accident. *Bid.* A singular accident, truly. A few such accidents would soon empty my purse. I fear you have not studied your author to advantage. But may I have the pleasure of knowing your other accomplishments? *Lady T.* I flirt with the young men to the envy of all my female acquaintance. I delight in having half a-dozen making love to me at once. *Bid.* A handsome recommendation, truly. You must be greatly benefited by having a parcel of danglers dancing attendance upon you. But how have you improv-

ed your mind? Have you stored it with useful knowledge? *Lady T.* I flatter myself I am well informed. I have read Tom Jones, the Arabian Nights, and Tristram Shandy. I generally read the deaths and marriages and the fashions for the month, out of the News-papers. *Bid.* I am satisfied as to your information. What is your employment for the day? *Lady T.* O, I rise at 11 or 12. After breakfast I dress, and am ready to go out at 2 or 3. I spend a couple of hours dropping cards or shopping; or I ramble about the fashionable parts of the town. I dine at 6 or 7; after which I go to the play or to a party. If I go to the play I converse the most of the night with Mr. Fudge. Mr. Fudge is a dear creature, he has always something to say that makes one laugh. I fear he will win my heart after all. If it be not play night, I sip a cup of coffee at 9 or 10, play cards for 2 or 3 hours, sup at 1, and go to bed between 2 and 3 in the morning. *Bid.* What do you ask for her? *Mer.* £50. Does any one bid more? *Bid.* 'Tis too much. I'll give you 10 for her. I'll make something by these gew-gaws and baubles; and I'll part with her to Mr. Fudge for a few pounds more. *Jup.* Take her at the price. It is not likely we shall get a better bid. *Bid.* There is the money in Belfast Notes. *Mer.* Very good, they pass with me as readily as national notes, both in heaven and hell.

Mer. Now, gentlemen, I am going to set up life, spirit, gallantry, every thing great, noble, and dashing; the pride of the ball, the assembly, and the fair sex; call him buck, or blood, or any thing you please. *Bid.* Pray, Sir, what good qualities have you? *Buck.* Good qualities, Sir? Do you suspect me of any bad? Zounds, Sir, you want to insult me. Take care Sir, 'twas only yesterday I called a gentleman out because he said the earth was round, while I swore it was a pyramid. *Bid.* I beg pardon, I merely want to know what I have before I purchase. *Buck.* Look here Sir, did you ever see so fine a leg and thigh in your life? Look how neat that pantaloon sits to my figure? There's style for you; I'm the lad for the ladies, damme. *Bid.* What is your employment? *Buck.* O you hottentot! employment for a gentleman of my blood and spirit! I have no employment; I scorn employment. *Bid.* Then how do you spend your time? *Buck.* my chief business, Sir, is attending the ladies. I am to be found at all places of fashionable resort; at balls, assemblies, operas, theatres, taverns, &c. &c. and sometimes even at that stupid place church, if it happen to be the *ton*. *Bid.* From your appearance I should suppose you spent a great deal of money. *Buck.* O lord no, I am an economist, I must to be sure appear like other people. I get a new suit of clothes only once or twice a month; I keep a curricle and a few blood horses, a pack of hounds and four or five fine hunters; I spend 50 or £60 now and then at an entertainment, and lose sometimes a hundred or two at dice or billiards; I visit Bath, Brighton, or Harrowgate, by a time, or take a trip to London sometimes; but all that costs only a thousand or two. I keep a brace of fine girls when I can get them, and they to be sure cost me something; but d--n my blood, to be out of the fashion, I would as soon be out of the world. *Bid.* Now where do you find money to meet all your expenses? *Buck.* O you old ass! a gentleman of my figure think about money! Why you blockhead when that old screw my father won't remit me, I live by my wits and my means, and damme me if ever I want a fine girl or a bottle of wine. *Bid.* I won't have him at any money. *Buck.* Not have me! you old conundrum! you never saw the like of me in you life. *Bid.* Truly I never did. *Buck.* I drive in nicer style than any buck in London. I knocked up four horses at the last steeple chase; I am fully acquainted with all the fashions; in short I am caressed by all the men, and adored by all the ladies. *Bid.* I would not take him, were I to get him for nothing. *Mer.* Does any other bidder offer himself? 2d, *Bid* Would he answer to be my groom, or to attend at table? I see his boots are finely varnished. Perhaps he could clean my shoes!

Mer. I'll not promise for him. Take him at what you think he is worth. *Bid.* I'll give five tenpennies for him.

Mer. Take him, I am glad to get quit of him, for he has disturbed us all morning, swearing and talking like a fool. His tongue has not been at rest five minutes, these two hours, tumbling out nonsense in heaps, and abusing every body about him—Gentlemen, I am now going to give you a treat. Here is a precious article, indeed; nothing less I assure you, than the celebrated Mrs. Mary Anne Cl—ke. A. Z.

To be continued.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

IN the Repository of Theology and general Literature for the last month, I find the following just censure on Thomas Clarkson, for his want of discrimination of character, when, in his History of the Abolition of the Slave Trade, he equally praises Fox and Pitt for the parts they respectively took in that business. The remarks are so congenial with my own, on reading that generally interesting work, that I beg permission for their insertion in your next number. The finesse of the one Statesman forms a contrast with the decided measures of the other. Nor should praise be with-held from Lord Grenville, whose last public act in office, was procuring the royal assent to the act which stamped this nefarious trade with legislative reprobation. This one circumstance shows how legislative assemblies in the present day are influenced, and how obsequious they are to the nod of the minister for the time being. The reason for abolishing this trade in 1791 and 1792 were as forcible, as in 1806; but in the former years truth and justice pleaded in vain; and in 1806 the just and necessary measure was carried, because Fox and Grenville, being ministers, were honest men.

A READER.

"Mr. Pitt was a speech maker, and could declaim as well upon the enormities of the Slave-trade, as upon the horrors of Jacobinism. His eloquence in behalf of the Africans, in the years 1790 and 1792, captivated both his friends and enemies. But why, it may be asked, did he not use his almost irresistible influence to abolish the evil he so pathetically deplored? Was he strong only on the side of tyranny and aggression? It must be a subject of melancholy reflection to his admirers to think, that after all his declarations and protestations, he permitted the British slave trade to increase from an importation of 25,000 to an importation of 57,000 negroes in two years, ending 1798, by the capture of the Dutch and other settlements. If he had issued in 1797 the order of council 1805, above 30,000 negroes per annum would have been saved! What Mr. Pitt, who was prime minister of this country, with boundless power, for twenty years, could not, or would not effect, was accomplished by the Fox and Grenville ministry, which existed not so many months. But with them the matter was taken up on principle, and they staked their very being upon it. One of their first measures was to restrict the trade; they went on impairing it by degrees, and pledging the house, and preparing the country for its annihilation; and their very last act, was the glorious bill which wiped away this disgraceful traffic. And have they to divide the honour of this benevolent work with their predecessors, who, while they *talked* about it, *did* nothing to forward it! Let Mr. Clarkson answer this question, who with an impropriety most glaring, and injustice most shameful, dedicates his admirable "History of the Abolition," equally to the manes of Pitt and Fox. Mr. Fox's friends disdain the compliment, and the dedication will ever be an eye-sore in a work, which in other respects, benevolence would contemplate with unalloyed pleasure."

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

THE ANCIENT MUSIC OF IRELAND ADAPTED TO THE PIANO FORTE.

MR. BUNTING is at present in London superintending this long expected collection, which is now *in the Press*, and will shortly be published with the highest embellishment of London Engravings. As the scope of this laborious undertaking, to which Mr. Bunting has devoted at least seventeen years, may not be known

to some of your readers, the following account of it will be acceptable.

A SUBSCRIBER.

IT is to comprehend, as nearly as practicable, the entire body of the ancient Music of this country; the whole making an aggregate of about an hundred and fifty melodies.

A number of original songs will be added, in their native language and character, with prose translations; and for several of the finest airs, arranged for the voice with an instrumental accompaniment, English words are prepared by Thomas Campbell, Esq. and others of acknowledged talents.

It will contain an old Irish lesson and prelude, played in this kingdom for several generations, and latterly, by DENNIS HEMPSEN, the Harper of Magilligan, from whom it was taken down shortly before his decease: also two celebrated *Irish airs*, with their ancient *variations*, as practised on the Harp for many years.

With these are to be given, an original melody, or recitative, which the compiler had the fortune to discover, as sung in artless strains by the aborigines of different parts of Ireland, to the OSSIANIC lamentation of the celebrated Deirdre *(Deirdre)* for the sons of Usneach *(Usneach)* together with a very ancient Highland air, a remnant of the music to which similar poems have been sung.

The music will be accompanied by an extensive Memoir on the Harp, of ancient and modern times. In this various original matter will be found on a subject at once curious and little explored—Particularly, the distinctive difference between the music of Ireland and that of neighbouring countries. An account of the principles upon which the Irish Harp is tuned and played—of a multiplicity of technical terms in the Irish language, respecting the instrument; its proportions, and measurements, as well as the alterations it has undergone from the Saxon times to the present:—The affinity of the present Harp to still more ancient instruments will be traced, particularly to the harp of Egyptian Thebes. A comparative view is taken of the principal stringed instruments of antiquity; and an inquiry into the Highland and Lowland music of Scotland; with an historical account of the Bagpipe.

The predominant object throughout has been to present the music, *unadulterated*, for which this island was celebrated from remote ages, and which occasioned the Harp to be quartered in her arms. It has fallen to the lot of the Compiler to rescue many airs, that in their native simplicity, lead directly to the heart, when they were on the point of being lost for ever. The only repositories of them some years ago have paid the debt of nature, since the commencement of this undertaking, leaving hardly a successor in their art.

From this imperfect abstract of a plan to which the Compiler has devoted so great a portion of his life, it will appear that his aim has been to gratify the curiosity of the Antiquarian, as well as to entertain the lover of music.

The whole is to be contained in two volumes folio, and an octavo volume, with elegant engravings to elucidate different parts of the subject. The music and engravings to be produced in the best style of the London Press.

The work is to be adorned by a drawing of the most beautiful Harp that has ever been discovered in Ireland; greatly superior in construction and ornament, to that preserved in the museum of Trinity College, Dublin, as the Harp of an ancient Irish monarch. Plate II. A representation of the ancient Irish Harp, played by Dennis Hempsen, of whom an accurate portrait was taken sometime before his death. Plate III. is to contain drawings of the stringed instruments of antiquity, for the purpose of comparing and appreciating the principles of their construction with those of the instrument under review. Plate IV. will exhibit diagrams of the musical instruments of the middle ages and more modern periods.

A work on such a subject, so difficult and expensive in execution, conducted by a person of whose musical attainments there is only one opinion, has high demands on the patronage of every gentleman and scholar, independently of every musical practitioner. The public taste, and

still more the reverence of every Irishman for the most ancient reliques of his country, are in some degree involved. These remains of other times almost any where else, would not to this day have remained in obscurity.

It will therefore give satisfaction to announce that the work has excited a strong interest throughout the united kingdom, particularly in Great Britain, where the subscription is receiving warm encouragement.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ON THE CULTURE OF POTATOES.

AS the drill culture of Potatoes has for several years past been gaining ground in this country, and the Landholders are now generally convinced of its superiority over the lazy-bed mode, both as to produce and expense, I was surprized to see in No. 6, of the Magazine, a statement said to be taken from Rawson's Survey of Kildare, representing the lazy-bed way as most profitable.

I have looked into the extract as it is given in the Magazine for September, and find the statement is fairly made on one acre in the drill or rather bank mode, and one acre in the lazy-bed way; in the first there appears a profit of £21 1 1, and in the latter only £1 6 8. How the Gentleman from Castle-Upton could make such a mistake as to imagine that the last statement was for eight acres, when the author of the work expressly says he has given it for one acre only, I am at a loss to conjecture. Surely no person who is acquainted with the expense of planting Potatoes with the spade, could think that eight acres could be done in that way, at the small expense of £2 3 4 (very little more than five shillings per acre) or that the seed used would amount to no more than £2 0 0 (not five bushels to the acre). The only article of expense that seems extravagant is the dung—320 loads to an acre is certainly a greater quantity than we are in the habit of applying in this country, but if only one half of the dung was to be taken into the statement, it would still leave a balance of £12 7 9 in favour of the bank culture, a sum sufficiently great to induce any farmer to give it a fair trial.

As to the advice given the Editor of rejecting all anonymous communications, he will know what value to set upon it. If Magazines and such other periodical works in this country, at least, were to receive nothing but what had signatures, I am afraid their numbers would be very scantily supplied with materials for the instruction or amusement of the public.

I have always thought that the value of such communications ought to be estimated by the importance of the subject and the soundness of the reasoning employed, and not the name of the author.

The Farmer's Magazine, published in Edinburgh, is principally composed of anonymous pieces, and yet it is held in great estimation, and is judged to have materially served the cause of Agriculture; having such a precedent I must beg leave to subscribe myself

March 1, 1809. A FARMER.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

I LATELY observed a proposal, made by a Correspondent to one of the London Magazines, that all persons who were acquainted with successful cases of the application of any of the popular remedies used through the country, should make them known to the public, with the proper vouchers through the medium of some of the periodical publications: I also find that it has been adopted and acted upon, and that several cases of common remedies have been already published. Such a plan I think would be equally useful here, and therefore I take the liberty of recommending to you, to make known your wish to receive communications of this nature. I would also go farther, and invite communications not only of cases in which they have succeeded, but also where they have failed. The adage,

Felix quem faciunt aliena pericula cautum,

is no where so applicable as in the case of experimental medicine, in which the failure or success of a remedy depends as much on the mode and circumstances of the application as its intrinsic qualities. If you accede to this hint, I doubt not, but that it will be the means of furnishing the public with some new and interesting

information on a subject on which all are concerned, the preservation and restoration of health. I am Sir

Yours, OBSOLETUS.

March 1st, 1809.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

PERMIT me to add a few cursory observations to an interesting Paper in your last Month's Magazine, on that staple article of the Irish export trade, butter. I have no doubt of the success which would attend a trial of Dr. Anderson's receipt, and I truly hope that it may become general. The ordinary process at present in use in this country, in making butter, is, after the parts which constitute that delightful aliment have been separated from the milk, to wash the mass well in cold water, and when the due quantity of salt is worked into it, lay it by for use. I have lately (indeed by accident) been informed of another method which is practised in some parts of the counties of Wexford, and Carlow, and I hear has been attended with considerable success.

The manner is very simple, and it strikes me too as extremely probable that it was the ancient way of treating it. The butter, on taking it out of the churn, is laid on a flat stone or marble slab, and worked or beat very well until the whole of the milk is supposed to have escaped; the salt is then used and the butter is fit for immediate use or keeping, and if I am correctly informed, resists rancidity much longer than when worked in the usual way with water. Perhaps the water being a much finer fluid, penetrating into the porous parts of the butter, and it being difficult to expel it altogether, causes the disagreeable effect mentioned, but this is mere speculation.

The county Carlow butter has long been esteemed in the sister country, and bears a much higher price in its metropolis than any other Irish, the Cork rose not excepted, and such is the opinion that they entertain of its peculiar goodness, and the high name it has acquired, that the Merchants in the neighbouring seaports find it their interest to brand all their prime butter casks with the name, the consequence is that more is sold in London as Carlow, than is made in the county.

The great and almost only cause of the indifferent quality of a large portion of this country butter is, I am persuaded, owing to the poverty of the dairy-men. Often have I entered the peasant's wretched cabin, and beheld the children, pigs, poultry, &c. scrambling promiscuously on the ground, the family's lowly bed of straw in one corner, while their vessels of milk placed on a few sticks set up in the ground, and a cross one or two at the top, lay in another, and the house so filled with smoke as almost to threaten suffocation.

The few cows all which they possess are generally so very limited, that to have a sufficient quantity of cream for a churning, they hold it over so long, and the wooden leaves, being I am afraid seldom well scalded, it acquires in addition to the smoky, a scarcely less disagreeable taste.

I must mention a practice resorted to here by the butter merchants, to prevent the *market prices* rising too rapidly; it cannot be condemned too severely. I am not quite certain as to its being confined to this place alone, but I trust it is the case.

A bribe, or *whisper* as it is called, of so much a cask, is given; it generally runs from 6 to 12s. and the seller of the butter, whether the cask be large or otherwise, obtains it.

This as I before mentioned, keeps down the *nominal* price here, and the *real* one in the country towns, that look to this place, as a mart for their butter. But the practice leaves such a glaring temptation open to the farmer's sons, or servants, *as the whisper is so easily reduced*, not taking to account (as I imagine) the evident injustice of the custom, that it ought to be discouraged as much as possible. RECLUSE.

Waterford, March 19, 1809.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

THE CHARACTER OF THE FRENCH LADIES.... BY AN AMERICAN CITIZEN, WHO LIVED IN FRANCE SEVERAL YEARS, AND ON WHOSE ARM THE EMPRESS HERSELF SOMETIMES DEIGNED TO LEAN.

WELL did Sterne say, that nothing here was *salique* but the government, for the Ladies of France to

indemnify themselves for this exclusion from the Throne, have seized on the most despotic power, and rule over their subjects with absolute sway.

A pretty woman in France is a sovereign prince who knows neither resistance nor controul. She is an ambitious potentate, that makes conquests and cedes them, and will exchange a subject as a province. In the midst of her circle she is a law-giver, and her decrees, like the proclamations of King Henry the Eighth, have the full force of acts of parliament. At her toilet she holds her levee—in her *boudoir* she gives private audience, and in her bed she receives her ministers. She has favourites and officers of state, and confirms her honours with a kiss of her hand. Her train is filled with rival courtiers and zealous expectants, whom she keeps in peace and civility by her sovereign authority. Her forces, like her ways and means, are inexhaustible. She pays her servants with a smile, and subdues her enemies with a frown. She makes war with the artillery of her eyes, and peace she seals with the impression of her lips. Rebels and male-contents she punishes with exile or death as the case may be. She protects learning, science and the arts. Authors submit their works to her, and artists implore her patronage. She receives the homage of the gay, of the grave, of the old, and of the young. The sage, the hero, the wit and the philosopher, all range themselves under her banners and obey her laws. As to her capacities, she is but an elegant little variety of man. Her titles are undisputed. Ask whose house that is—it belongs to *Madame une telle.* Has she a husband? I can't say: I never saw any.

Will you have a more familiar instance? I was sitting at the fire side with my wife—a tradesman brought in a pair of boots—I asked if they were my boots. I do not know, sir, I believe they are for the husband of Madame. Inquire who is that cavalier. He is of the society of Madame——She is the sun of a sphere, and all her planets and satellites waltze round her—and her voice is the music of the sphere. Taught from her infancy to please, and conscious of her power by its effects, she wears the air of acknowledged superiority and receives man's submission as her due. Yet ever zealous to extend her empire, ever active in maintaining it, she neglects no art, no charm, no seduction. When she moves, it is all grace—when she sings, it is all sentiment—when she looks, it is all expression—when she languishes, it is all softness—when she frolicks, it is all riot—when she sighs, it is all tenderness—when she smiles it is all happiness—and when she laughs it is all mirth: She is good-humoured from philosophy, and kind from calculation. Her beauty is her treasure, and she knows that all ill humours impair it, she therefore shuns strong emotions, and becomes upon principle dispassionate and cold, for her ambition is to be adored and not to love—Hold, hold! I hear you exclaim—then she is a coquette! Alack-a day, my friend, and it is even so.

But let justice ever guide my pen. However coquettish these fascinating beings may be; however generally they may be charged with gallantry, and I am no knight-errant, nor bound to prove the contrary; yet I believe many there are who speak of them unfairly and "fancy raptures that they never knew." And I think I can assure you that there are in France as affectionate and faithful wives, as tender and attentive mothers, as in any other country of the earth. Such, however are not naturally the first to present themselves to the acquaintance of the stranger or the traveller.

H. W.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF DISTINGUISHED PERSONS.

AN ACCOUNT OF WILLIAM RATHBONE, OF LIVERPOOL; TAKEN FROM THE ATHENÆUM FOR LAST MONTH.

THE commemoration of departed worth is a debt due no less to the living than to the dead, and it would be unjust to the present age to suffer the virtues and talents of one of its brightest ornaments, recently withdrawn from it, to pass away without particular notice.

William Rathbone, who died on the

11th day of February, 1809, at his house at Greenbank, near Liverpool, was the son of William Rathbone, a respectable merchant of Liverpool, and one of the religious society of Quakers, from whom he inherited that uprightness of heart and benevolence of character, by which he was himself so eminently distinguished. Although engaged at an early period in active business, which he pursued with strict regularity, and for many years of his life with unremitted industry, he yet found leisure for the cultivation of his mind, in many of the most important branches of human knowledge. Endowed by nature with kind dispositions and an excellent understanding, his great view throughout life was to promote, as far as his situation would permit, the true honour, interests, and happiness of his fellow-creatures; an object which he endeavoured to accomplish, not merely by unceasing works of charity and benevolence, within the sphere of his personal influence, but by a steady, uniform, and unshaken attention to all those great principles of right and justice upon which are founded the security, respectability, and prosperity of the human race.

Throughout the political, moral, and religious storms and commotions which have now for so long a period agitated the civilized world, he was a rock that felt no change. Whenever the rights and welfare of others were in question, whenever oppression was to be withstood, or intolerance opposed, it was unnecessary to ask for his assistance, or to inquire what was his opinion. His hand and his heart, every faculty of his body, and every energy of his mind were ready in the cause. In the year 1792, when the fate of Europe depended upon the turn of the balance; when a wise, temperate and enlightened decision might have preserved the world from unspeakable calamities, and given to this nation the honour of having patronized the cause of rational freedom and of limited monarchy, he was among the first who in his native town of Liverpool endeavoured to impress upon the public mind the expediency of avoiding a war with France. At a general meeting of the inhabitants, called by the mayor in the month of December in that year, his exertions, with those of other friends of liberty and peace, induced the meeting to vote an address to his Majesty, expressive of their gratitude to him for having so long preserved to them the blessings of public tranquillity, and their earnest hope that no circumstances would induce him to implicate his people in affairs foreign to their interests, and fatal to their repose. The question was three times put, and as often carried in favour of the address. The populous town of Manchester followed; a similar address was there proposed and carried, and the example thus begun might have extended still further; but although such was the sense of the majority, yet the same circumstance which has occurred in other places of a riot in favour of the existing administration, took place on this occasion in Liverpool, and the address, although voted by the meeting, and left for the signature of the inhabitants at the town hall, was torn in pieces by a lawless mob, and scattered through the streets. How fully the apprehensions which were then expressed of the consequences that must ensue from involving the country in a war have since been realized, the present situation of the manufacturing and commercial part of this country, and the thousands of industrious labourers who are thus deprived of the means of subsistence for themselves and families, but too fatally show. Another meeting of the inhabitants was sometime afterwards called by the Mayor, in one of the squares of the town, in order to consider on the propriety of addressing his Majesty to dismiss Mr. Pitt and his colleagues from his confidence and councils; when upon a motion made to that effect by a very respectable and independent individual, Mr. Rathbone endeavoured to address the meeting in its support; but such was the dread which the partizans of administration entertained of his talents and his eloquence, that they employed a great number of persons to prevent, by noise and clamour, his being heard. After repeated attempts he was obliged to desist, and the Mayor declared that he could not determine whether the motion was carried or not, and dis-

missed the meeting without a decision.

The monopoly granted to the East India Company, and the exclusion of British subjects from a lucrative trade, to which even foreign nations were admitted, were subjects which had long engaged his particular attention. In the year 1792 he had taken an active part at a meeting of the inhabitants of Liverpool, when certain resolutions were entered into, expressive of their sense of the injuries which the country suffered by such monopoly. These resolutions drawn up by one of his intimate friends, who is now no more, but whose character is well known to the public, by his literary and scientific acquirements, are deserving of notice for their assertion of general principles, and the enlightened maxims of commercial policy which they inculcate. The inefficacy of this effort did not prevent Mr. Rathbone from making another attempt to call the public attention to this momentous subject. In the course of the year 1807 a meeting of the inhabitants of Liverpool was held in the town-hall, at which he presided, when he laid before them a full exposition of the affairs of the East India Company, and proposed that addresses against the new loans required by them, should be presented to both Houses of Parliament, which were accordingly carried at a most numerous meeting; one person only holding up his hand against it, a circumstance which drew upon him the notice and disapprobation of the assembly; but which Mr. Rathbone no sooner perceived than with that kindness and promptitude which were habitual to him, he exclaimed, "You are right, Sir, in thus avowing your opinion; minorities are often virtuous."

One of the latest efforts of this champion of peace and good-will on earth, was to remove the obstacles which have unfortunately prevented the usual intercourse between this country and America, a subject in which, from the nature of his commercial concerns, as being extensively engaged in that trade, he was most peculiarly interested; but which he considered in a public view, as it regarded the happiness of two countries formed to be of the greatest service to each other in their commercial relations; no man living being more free than he was from the narrow views of selfish advantage and private interest. In a declining state of health he offered himself to an examination on this subject, and accordingly delivered his evidence at the bar of both Houses of Parliament; but although the information there given by himself and others, proved to the satisfaction of all impartial persons, the inefficacy of the measures adopted by the Orders in Council, either to counteract the effects of the embargo, or to promote the interests of this country; and although the facts there proved were enforced by the eloquence of many members of the greatest respectability and talents, yet no beneficial effects whatever were produced, and the Orders in Council yet remain, to second the views of our enemies, and to starve our own country-men.

To such a mind as that of Mr. Rathbone it was impossible that the great question of the Slave trade, which so long agitated the kingdom, could be a subject of indifference. On this question his excellent father had taken an active part, as may be seen by Mr. Clarkson's History of the Abolition; but the efforts of the late Mr. Rathbone were not less decisive or less effectual, and it is to be attributed in no small degree to his bold and persevering opposition to it, and to the strong and impressive manner in which his opinions were avowed, that even in the town of Liverpool, the very place which was the centre of that trade, a powerful body was raised against it, and the proper sentiments of natural right and justice instilled into the public mind. That he lived to see, independently of the immediate benefits to which it gave rise, it afforded him reason to hope that there was in this country a fund of integrity, humanity, and good sense, which under all emergencies would be found adequate to its preservation.

Nor did he view with indifference the municipal concerns of the town in which he resided. For a long series of years a select body of the corporators have taken the administration of the affairs of the town into their own hands, excluding therefrom the bur-

gesses at large, and under the name of a common council have elected their own members, and claimed the right of making bye-laws for the government of the town. These pretensions were opposed as inconsistent with the existing charters, by a great number of the freemen, and even by some respectable members of the select body, and Mr. Rathbone took a conspicuous part in the assertion of the rights of his fellow burgesses. A voluntary subscription was entered into; the questions were put into a course of judicial proceeding, and that respecting the right of making bye-laws was tried at Lancaster, and a verdict given in favour of the burgesses at large. On a motion in the Court of King's Bench a new trial was directed, and the cause went again before a jury, who returned a similar verdict to their predecessors.

The Court of King's Bench was again moved, and a third trial was ordered, but the strong indications thus given that the claims of the burgesses would not ultimately prevail, induced them to relinquish the contest, and the select body still continues to exercise the complete direction of the concerns and finances of the town. These local contests occurred at a period when Mr. Rathbone was in the full vigour of his powers. At the numerous assemblies held on these occasions, he frequently addressed the freemen of the town, and the torrent of his eloquence was irresistible. The force of his arguments, the clearness of of his demonstration, and the urbanity of his manner overpowered all resistance, and enthralled all hearts; and the applauses he received whenever he spoke were as involuntary as they were sincere.

Mr. Rathbone had been strictly educated in the religious profession of which his parents were members, to which he had himself invariably adhered, notwithstanding an extensive and intimate intercourse of friendship with many persons of different religious persuasions, and had evinced himself an active and useful member of their society; but of late years, some transactions took place in their proceedings in Ireland, which he conceived to be inconsistent with that degree of religious toleration, and that right of private judgment in religious matters, on which alone any dissent from pre-existing establishments can be rationally defended. In the course of these proceedings it appeared that some difference of opinion had arisen amongst the members of the society, as well on points of doctrine as of principle; in consequence of which a considerable number of them had been excluded. Under these circumstances, which tended not only to diminish the numbers of the society, but to bring it into disrepute, especially as those separating from it were persons of respectable character and religious dispositions, Mr. Rathbone thought that by a clear statement of the transactions which had taken place, and a calm, temperate, and impartial comment upon them, it might be possible to heal the breach. But in taking upon himself this task, he had yet higher views, and whilst he endeavoured to show forth, by argument and authority, *the real value of ceremonial forms and observances*, he determined to assert to the utmost of his power the *sacred* right of every individual to judge for himself in religious matters, and the *important duty* of exercising this right without fear of temporal consequences. His strong judgment and enlightened mind had indeed convinced him of the great and most important truth, that until there be a perfect and acknowledged freedom of opinion on religious subjects, till every one can allow his neighbour to judge and to act in his spiritual concerns by the dictates of his own understanding, without any diminution of kindness and good will towards him on account of his dissent, the causes of alienation and enmity can never be removed, nor the principles of Christianity ever be established. Under these impressions, he published in the year 1804, *A Narration of Events that have lately taken place in Ireland among the Society called Quakers.* In the compilation of this work he paid the most scrupulous attention to the authenticity of the facts which he recorded; accompanying them with observations which sufficiently display the liberality of his sentiments and

the benevolence of his heart. To revive this subject is as foreign to the purpose of the author of these remarks, as it would be unsuitable to that of the present publication; but it would be unjust to the character of Mr. Rathbone to pass it over, without presenting to the reader, in his own words, his general view of the nature of true religious *unity*, which may be sufficiently collected from the following passage in that work:

"Instances of cordial and long cemented friendship, between liberal and virtuous minds, who neither hold *similar opinions*, nor practise *similar forms* in matters of religion, are sufficiently frequent to show, that *unity* in forms and opinions, is by no means essential to that bond of union. The nature of *wisdom and folly, truth and falsehood, virtue and vice*, are indeed irreconcilably opposed to each other; and the necessary result is, that among their respective votaries, whether of *the same* or of *different* societies, *unity* must be unknown. But among those, who are happily habituated to regard the GLORY of GOD, and the GOOD of MANKIND, as the predominant objects of their pursuit, is it not obvious that there can be no differences about forms and opinions, respecting which they are likely to feel, *or would be justified in feeling* great anxiety, on behalf of each other? There is indeed *one point*, beyond all others pre-eminent in importance, concerning which their labours and their prayers for each other, can never be unnecessary or unseasonable; and this is *unity* in that sentiment which represents *the favour of our merciful Creator*, and an *increasing participation of his divine nature, through all the successive periods of eternal existence, by means of a progressive improvement in intellect and virtue*, as objects infinitely more momentous than any which this world can present."

This publication was not however attended with the beneficial consequences which its benevolent author wished. Instead of adopting the ideas which he had endeavoured to inculcate, the Society considered the work as derogatory to the character and injurious to the interests of their body, and proceedings were had upon it, which terminated in his disunion from them as a religious community. These proceedings were afterwards published by Mr. Rathbone, under the title of "*A Memoir of the Proceedings of the Society called Quakers, &c.*" In this work is contained his defence, as transmitted to the society prior to his expulsion, in which he has ably vindicated his own opinions and conduct; but rather with a view to justify himself in the judgment of the candid and impartial of all sects, than with that of averting the disunion with which he was threatened. In fact the separation was become as necessary to him, as to the society; and as he could not prevail upon its members to approve of his sentiments and adopt his recommendations, he felt no regret, except what arose from his unalterable regard and friendship for the individuals of that body, at being deprived of all further connection with them.

It will perhaps be supposed that in times like the present, the political discussion in which Mr. Rathbone had been engaged, would excite no small share of resentment in those whose opinions and conduct he opposed. But whatever might be the animosity thus produced in the minds of others, it is certain that they occasioned no feelings of personal hostility and resentment in his own.—On the contrary, the philanthropy of his character induced him to feel a general affection for all mankind, and the generosity of his disposition led him to compensate those with whom he differed in opinion, for the opposition shown to them by an additional share of kindness and respect. In asserting his own sentiments he always did justice to the motives of those from whom he differed, and, as he was not conscious of, so he never expressed those angry feelings, and that vindictive spirit which characterize the contests of the present day, whether literary, political, or religious. The same indulgence and toleration which were habitual to him, he wished also to see displayed in the conduct of his friends; and an ungenerous remark or an illiberal censure, even on an avowed adversary, never passed without his animadversions and reproof. He wel

knew that virtue and benevolence are not confined to one class of political opinions, or to the precincts of any one religious sect; and when the indications of these appeared, he was ever eager to do them justice. That this temper and conduct smothered many of the asperities to which the inflexible assertion of his own principles gave rise, cannot be doubted; and he will long continue to be held in affectionate remembrance by many, who, whilst they differed with him on essential points of belief and conduct, yet loved and venerated the man. If amongst those harsher spirits, who, convinced of their own infallibility, can make no allowance for the dissent of other, there were some who considered his principles with abhorrence, and his talents with dread, their violence or injustice produced upon his calm and dignified mind no re-action of a similar nature; insomuch that few persons have so uniformly practised throughout life that great Christian maxim, which if adhered to by others in an equal degree, would lay the basis of human happiness, "*To love your enemies; to bless those that curse you; and to pray for those who despitefully use you, and persecute you.*"

The character and conduct of this distinguished friend of liberty, and humanity, and peace, and the direction which he gave to his talents, were such as to have left, on his own account, no cause of regret amongst his surviving friends. His mission is performed, and from a life of care and anxiety, attended with no common share of suffering from bodily indisposition, he is gone to receive the reward of his labours. But those to whom he was more intimately known will find it difficult to suppress a sentiment of sorrow and disappointment, that the great endowments of his mind, and the benevolent dictates of his heart, had not an opportunity of exerting themselves on a still wider scale. Had he, whilst in the vigour of his powers, been called to take an active part in the general and national concerns, it is impossible to say what might not have been effected by his fervid eloquence, his undaunted firmness, and his earnest desire to promote the general happiness. But these regrets are vain and fruitless. A cold, narrow, and a short-sighted policy has infused itself throughout the country. A spirit of hatred, of retaliation, and of revenge, has superceded the common feelings of humanity, and too often broken down the boundaries of right and justice; and the effects of these, under the wise constitution of the moral world, have already been severely visited upon ourselves. These evils were beyond his power to remedy, and an apprehension of that decline of public virtue, and that progress of corruption which must finally end in disgrace and ruin, occasioned him many moments of solicitude and regret.

True excellence is always the more highly esteemed as it is the more nearly approached, and the more intimately known; and nothwithstanding the respect paid to his acknowledged merits in public life, it was in the social circle, and in the society of his family and friends, that his character appeared in its most favourable aspect. On these occasions it was impossible not to be struck with that soul of benevolence which disclosed itself in every word and look, and with that simplicity of manner, which indicated that he had not a thought to conceal. As his views were extensive, and his experience considerable, so the tenor of his conversation was always instructive, and it may most truly be said of him, that a word scarcely ever escaped his lips that was not directed to some benevolent purpose, to impart pleasure, to communicate knowledge, or to do good. His person and appearance were strikingly impressive, and conciliated attachment, whilst they inspired respect. His manner was peculiarly natural and engaging, and throughout his discourse, the aptitude of his illustrations and the playfulness of his fancy, always confined within the strictest bounds of propriety and decorum, never failed to delight his hearers.

For a long time the declining state of Mr. Rathbone's health had caused the most serious apprehensions to his friends; but a few months since, his complaints assumed a more alarming form, and he had to struggle with sufferings beyond what generally fall to the lot of humanity. If there be a spectacle on earth more peculiarly deserving of admiration than any other,

it is the contemplation of a firm and a virtuous mind, rising superior to corporeal sufferings, and shining forth in all its lustre amidst the ruins of its earthly frame. In the last period of the life of Mr. Rathbone, this spectacle was most eminently displayed. The moments that could be spared from actual suffering, were assiduously devoted to the consolation of his affectionate family, and the society of his friends, with whom he conversed on his approaching death, not only with fortitude, but with cheerfulness. The faculties of his mind were unimpaired to the last moment, when without a struggle he resigned his spirit into the hands of his Creator.

"Thrice happy! who the blameless road along,
Of honest praise, hath reach'd the vale of death!
Around him, like ministrant cherubs throng,
His better actions; to the parting breath,
Singing their blessed requiems; he the while,
Gently reposing on some friendly breast,
Breathes out his benisons; then with a smile
Of soft complacence lays him down to rest,
Calm as the slumbering infant."

His remains were attended to the grave in the burial ground of the Quaker's Society, in Liverpool, by a very large concourse of his friends of all ranks, and of various religious denominations, who voluntarily assembled to pay the last tribute to his virtues, and by whom he will long be held in affectionate remembrance.

Mr. Rathbone married in the year 1786, the only daughter of Mr. Richard Reynolds, late of Cole-brook Dale, but now of Bristol, who has survived him, and by whom he has left four sons and a daughter to profit by his example, and to revere his memory.

USEFUL INVENTIONS.

Account of a Patent granted to Zachariah Barratt (Croydon) for a Machine for washing Linen, &c. to which may be attached a contrivance for pressing the water from them, instead of wringing them.

THE machine consists of a wooden trough, of a convenient size for one person to stand at, with an inclined bottom, the inside surface is made uneven, by grooves, or projections, about an inch asunder. The ribs of the grooves are hollowed, so as to give them a wavy appearance, and into the hollows may be introduced small pieces of buff or other elastic substance which in the operation of washing are supposed to act in a similar manner to the human fingers. A hole is made in the bottom of the trough to let off the suds when done with. On the inside of the trough, and parallel with its ends, a roller is fixed on centres, covered with cork, leather or other soft substance, to prevent noise in the operation of washing, which operation is performed by a person pressing the clothes in the trough, with a loose board, called an agitator, the under side of which is supported by, and moves on the roller above mentioned. This agitator is constructed of one or more pieces of boards, two feet six inches long, framed together so as to form a flat surface, nearly of the width of the interior, having two holes or spaces cut out in the upper end, for the operator's hands. The lower end, about an inch high is covered with leather, cork or other fit elastic soft material with one or two pieces projecting at the bottom, similar to those in the hollow parts of the grooves, in the inside of the trough. Across the top of the trough is a strong bar or shelf of wood, on which may be placed an apparatus of any proper construction for pressing out the water, to be used as a substitute for wringing: this apparatus is a box, or tube, into which the wet things may be put,

and the water pressed out by a piece of wood, of the size nearly of the interior of the box, attached to the end of a screw fixed in a frame. A lever or other means of creating a pressure, may be adopted, but if a screw is used, it should be encircled with cylinder of leather, to keep it free from wet, which would render its action stiff and unpleasant.

The process for dying Nankeen Colour....By Richard Brewer.

Mix as much sheep's dung in clear water as will make it appear of the colour of grass, and dissolve in clear water one pound of best white soap, for every ten pounds of cotton-yarn, or in that proportion for a greater or lesser quantity.

Observe: the tubs, boards, and poles, that are used in the following operations, must be made of deal; the boiling pan of either iron or copper.

First operation....Pour the soap liquor prepared as above into the boiling pan; strain the dung liquor through a sieve; add as much thereof to the soap liquor in the pan as will be sufficient to boil the yarn, intended to be dyed, for five hours. When the liquors are well mixed in the pan, enter the yarn, light the fire under the pan, and bring the liquor to boil in about two hours, observing to increase the heat regularly during that period. Continue it boiling for three hours, then take the yarn out of the pan, wash it, wring it, and hang it in a shed on poles to dry. When dry, take it into a stove or other room where there is a fire; let it hang there until it be thoroughly dry.

N. B. The cotton yarn, when in the shed, should not be exposed either to the rain or sun; if it is, it will be unequally coloured, when dyed.

Second operation....In this operation use only one half of the soap, that was used in the last, and as much dung liquor (strained as before directed) as will be sufficient to cover the cotton yarn, when in the pan, about two inches. When these liquors are well mixed in the pan, enter the yarn, light the fire, and bring the liquor to boil in about one hour; then take the yarn out, wring it without washing, and hang it to dry as in the former operation.

Third operation....This operation the same as the second in every respect.

Fourth operation....For every ten pounds of yarn make a clear lye from half a pound of pot or pearl ashes. Pour the lye into the boiling pan, and add as much clear water as will be sufficient to boil the yarn for two hours; then enter the yarn, light the fire, and bring it to boil in about an hour. Continue it boiling about an hour, then take the yarn out, wash it very well in clear water, wring it, and hang it to dry as in former operations.

N. B. This operation is to cleanse the yarn from any oleaginous matter, that may remain in it after boiling in the soap and dung liquors.

Fifth operation....To every gallon of iron liquor* add half a pound of ruddle or red chalk (the last the best) well pulverized.

Mix them well together, and let the liquor stand four hours, in order that the heavy particles may subside; then pour the clear liquor into the boiling pan, and bring it to such a degree of heat as a person can well bear his hand in it; divide the yarn into small parcels, about five hanks in each; soak each parcel or handful very well in the above liquor, wring it, and lay it down on a clean deal board. When all the yarn is handed through the liquor, the last handful must be taken up and soaked in the liquor a second time, and every other handful in succession till the whole is gone through; then lay the yarn down in a tub, wherein there must be put a sufficient quantity of lye made from pot or pearl ashes, as will cover it about six inches. Let it lie in this state about two hours, then hand it over in the lye, wring it, and lay it down on a clear board. If it does not appear sufficiently deep in colour, this operation must be repeated till it has acquired a sufficient degree of darkness of colour; this done, it must be hung to dry as in former operations.

* Iron liquor is what the linen printers use.

N. B. Any degree of red or yellow hue may be given to the yarn by increasing or diminishing the quantity of ruddle or red chalk.

Sixth operation.....For every ten pounds of yarn make a lye from half a pound of pot or pearl ashes; pour the clear lye into the boiling pan; add a sufficient quantity of water thereto, that will cover the yarn about four inches; light the fire, and enter the yarn, when the liquor is a little warm; observe to keep it constantly under the liquor for two hours; increase the heat regularly till it come to a scald; then take the yarn out, wash it, and hang it to dry as in former operations.

Seventh operation....Make a sour liquor of oil of vitriol and water; the degree of acidity may be a little less than the juice of lemons; lay the yarn in it for about an hour, then take it out, wash it very well and wring it; give it a second washing and wringing, and lay it on a board.

N. B. This operation is to dissolve the metallic particles, and remove the ferruginous matter, that remains on the surface of the thread after the fifth operation.

Eighth operation....For every ten pounds of yarn dissolve one pound of best white soap in clear water, and add as much water to this liquor in your boiling pan as will be sufficient to boil the yarn for two hours. When these liquors are well mixed, light the fire, enter the yarn, and bring the liquor to boil in about an hour. Continue it boiling slowly an hour; take it out, wash it in clear water very well, and hang it to dry as in former operations; when dry, it is ready for the weaver.

N. B. It appears to me from experiments, that I have made, that less than four operations in the preparation of the yarn will not be sufficient to cleanse the pores of the fibres of the cotton, and render the colour permanent. *Trans. Dub. Soc.*

DETACHED ANECDOTES.

THE CLERICAL CHARACTER IN AMERICA.

A WRITER of celebrity who published at New York in 1807, describing the manners and dress of the Clergy of that country, uses the following characteristic expressions.

There is not a Clergyman in New-York of any description, nor as far as I can learn, in all America, that can lead a concert, or play upon the fiddle, or that dances, or manages an assembly, or gets drunk, or rides in at the death of a fox, or that wears buck-skin breeches, or a ruffled shirt, or keeps a mistress: all they do is to—marry the young people, christen their children, visit the sick, comfort the afflicted, go to church, preach twice or thrice on a Sunday, teach the living how to live, and the dying how to die; they are pure in their lives, uncorruptible in their morals, and preach universal love and toleration; and what is more unaccountable, they have no tythes, and they live in the very midst of their congregations.

THE CONDITION OF AN AMERICAN SOLDIER.

A gentleman who had travelled through many of the European nations, found it necessary to cross the Atlantic in 1806. Arriving at New-York, he expressed a wish to visit the barracks, but to his astonishment he was informed there was no barrack there. That the soldiers lived in their own houses, and slept with their own wives. Nay more, that they possessed counting-houses, clerks, ware-houses, ships, coaches, country seats, and, strange to tell, they had no pay!

HONESTY AT COURT.

Queen Caroline, once pressed the celebrated Dr. Clarke strongly to acquaint her with her faults. After evading this delicate business as long as he could without giving offence, he at length said; "As I am compelled, your Majesty must pardon me for saying that when people come from the country to St. James' chapel, for a sight of the royal family, it is

not a very edifying example to them, to see your Majesties talking during the whole time of divine service."—The Queen blushed: told the Doctor he was right, and a hearty laugh ensued. "Well Doctor," said she, "now tell me another fault." No, Madam, excuse me; when I see that your Majesty has amended this, it will be time enough to talk of another.

MODERN LATINITY.

About a century and a half ago, when the learned languages constituted an essential part of the education of a gentleman, it was customary to quote the classics on every occasion, but more particularly in public speeches. At such times the Cardinal de Retz had acquired the reputation of quick recollection, and ready application: perceiving on a certain occasion that his hearers expected this favourite ornament of speech, and not remembering a passage exactly to the purpose, he successfully ventured on an extempore effusion. Being told by some persons present that they did not remember the words in any ancient writer, the Cardinal cooly replied, "It is in some part of Cicero, but I cannot exactly point out the place." That could not be bad Latin which passed for the language of Tully.

DAUPHIN CLASSICS.

These valuable editions of the best classics were first undertaken at the suggestion of Huet, Bishop of Arranches, for the instruction of his royal pupil, a son of Louis XIV. and more immediately under the direction of the French prelate Bossue.

Virgil was edited by De la Rue; Horace, Juvenal and Persius, by Desprez; Livy, by Doujat, and Freinshemius; Sallust by Crespin; and Terence, by Nicholas Camus.

Collesson superintended Martial; Claudian was assigned to Piron, and Plautus to De L'Onore; Me. Dacier supervised Florus, Aurelius Victor, and Eutropius; Catullus, Tibullus and Propertius were published by Philip du Bois; Tacitus by Pachona.

DECAYED MEMORY.

Theodore Beza, during the last six years of his life, lost all recollection of present objects and occurrences, but retained correct early impressions, particularly of literary compositions. Being visited by a friend, he repeatedly forgot what they were talking of, and seeing his old associate about to leave him, with a melancholy conviction that his faculties were irrecoverably impaired, Beza requested him to sit a little longer, and soon after repeated to him a large portion of the Psalms of David in Hebrew, and of the Epistles of St. Paul in Greek.

ANTIENT FREEDOM OF ELECTION.

During the reign of Elizabeth, when to serve in parliament was thought a burthen rather than an honour, the Earl of Leicester addressed the following letter to the Electors of Andover in Hampshire: "Whereasit hath pleased her Majesty to appoint a Parliament to be presently called, and being steward of your town, I make bold to pray that you would give me the nomination of one of your burgesses, and should you wish to avoid the charges and allowance, if you will bestow the nomination of the other also on me, I will thank you for it, appoint a sufficient man, and pay all expenses.

Praying your speedy answer, I bid you right heartily farewell.

Leicester."

CROMWELL.

The following curious character of that sanctified warrior, is translated literally from Dr. Bate's *Elenchus Motuum Nuperorum in Anglia.* "A perfect master of all the arts of dissimulation, who, turning up the whites of his eyes, and seeking the Lord, with pious gestures, will weep, pray and cant most devoutly, till an opportunity offers of giving his dupe *a knock down blow under the short ribs.*"

LOYAL ADDRESSES.

Richard Cromwell carefully preserved to the day of his death, two large trunks full of addresses presented to him when Protector, a short time only before he was deposed; these from the customary expressions used in such compositions, he called *the lives and fortunes of the people of England.*

ORIGINAL POETRY.

STANZAS ON THE RECOVERY OF SIGHT; ADDRESSED TO MR. B. GIBSON, SURGEON OF MANCHESTER.

BY EDWARD RUSHTON, LIVERPOOL.

Oh! Gibson, ere those orbs of thine
Received the sun's resplendent light,
In far off regions these of mine,
With many a pang, were clos'd in night:
And in this soul-subduing plight,
Forlorn I reach'd my native shore,
When some, extoll'd for talent bright,
Believed my days of vision o'er.

From men of skill on Mersey's Strand,
Whose fam'd solution nought avail'd,
To men of skill throughout the land,
I pass'd; but every effort fail'd.
Time paced along, and now assail'd
By ills that oft on blindness wait,
I felt, yet neither crouch'd nor wail'd,
But with firm silence bore my fate.

When first Creation's forms withdrew,
The tones of Hope were sweet and clear,
But soon they faint, and fainter grew,
Then gently died upon my ear.
And thus in rosy youth's career
Was I of light and hope bereft,
Thus doom'd to penury severe,
Thus to the world's hard buffets left.

Now more than thirty times the Globe,
Had round the Sun her progress made,
Since Nature in a dark grey robe,
To these sad eyes had been array'd;
When lo! by rigorous duty sway'd,
To thee, oh Gibson! I applied,
And soon by thy transcendent aid,
The new-form'd opening light supplied.

Oh! what a contrast!—thus to rise,
From dungeon darkness into day!
To view again yon azure skies,
And all the blooming flush of May;
Through busy streets to wind my way,
And many a long lost form to mark,
Oh! what a Heaven do these display,
Compar'd to ever-during dark!

To me the Seasons roll'd all gloom,
But now the vast Creation glows,
With bliss: the hawthorn's silvery bloom,
I view, and Summer's blushing rose.
With bliss when withering Autumn blows
The leaves slow falling I descry;
And mark, amidst the Wintry snows,
The flakes in whirling eddies fly.

Before thy powers to me were known,
My steps some friendly arm would guide,
But now midst piping winds alone,
I range the country far and wide;
And oft while towering vessels glide,
And skiffs athwart the white waves steer,
I mark them, as I skirt the tide,
And fearless walk the crowded pier.

What though the light bestow'd by thee,
Is not the light of former days?
Though mists envelope all I see,
Yet take, oh! take my heart-felt praise;
For was not I from Heaven's blest rays,
Shut out through many a rolling year,
And oft remembering this I gaze,
Till feeling pours the grateful tear.

Oh! thou hast wroughta wond'rous change,
Hast usher'd me to light once more,
Hast given the mighty power to range
Through mental paths unknown before;
Hast placed within my grasp the lore
Of ancient and of modern days,
And while I thus delighed pore,
Shall I forget a Gibson's praise?

When the lov'd partner of my woe,
And all our young ones I survey,
Can I forget to whom I owe
Those joys that through my bosom play?
No! Gibson! every passing day
Declares the debt I owe to thee;
Declares, whatever Spleen may say,
The wonders thou hast done for me.

She who has long her Seaman mourn'd
As laid beneath the waves at rest,
Yet now beholds the bark return'd
And once more folds him to her breast;
Oh! she who thus has been distress'd,
And thus the highest bliss has known,
Oh! she *my* woes can fancy best,
And judge *my* transports by her own.

MY AIN FIRE-SIDE.

BY MRS. HAMILTON.

I HAVE seen many great anes, and sat in great ha's,
Many Lords, many Ladies a' cover'd wi' braws,
At feasts made for Princes, wi' Princes I've been,
Whar' the grand show of splendour has dazzled my een,
But a sight sae delightful I trow I ne'er spied,
As the bonny blythe blink o' my ain fire-side!

My ain fire-side, my ain fire-side,
Oh charming's the blink o' my ain fire-side.

Ance mair guid-be-thanked, roun my ain heartsome ingle,
Wi' the friens o' my youth I cordially mingle,

Nae forms to compel me to seem wae or glad,
I may laugh when I'm merry, or sigh when I'm sad;
Nae falsehood to dread, and nae malice to fear,
But truth to delight me, and frien'ship to cheer;
Of a' roads to happiness ever was tried,
There's nane half-sae sure as ain's ain fire-side!
My ain fire-side, my ain fire-side,
Oh charming's the blink o' my ain fire-side.

When I draw in my stool, on my cozy hearth-stane,
My heart loups sae light I scarce ken it my ain,
Care's flown on the winds, it is quite out of sight,
Past troubles, they seem, but as dreams o' the night,
I hear but ken't voices, ken't faces I see,
And mark fond affection still glowing for me.
Nae flashings o' flattery, nae boastings o' pride,
'Tis heart speaks to heart at my ain fire-side,
O' there's nought to compare wi' my ain fire-side!
My ain fire-side, my ain fire-side,
Oh charming's the blink o' my ain fire-side.

THE XIX PSALM

PARAPHRASED FROM BUCHANAN.

YE sons of vain philosophy and pride,
To folly prone and whelmed in error's tide,
Behold with sapient contemplation's eye,
Th' unnumbered glories of the vaulted sky,
And own what skilful architect divine,
Arched the wide vault, and bade those glories shine,
Who hung in ambient air this earthly ball,
And poured around the deeps encircling all.
As day the night, and night the day pursues,
Perpetual change! each hour the truth renews,
That Chance directs not, with such ordered haste,
The rolling wonders of th' æthereal waste,
From shore to shore they pour their beams abroad,
And through adoring worlds proclaim their God.
Lives there a race in earth's remote extreme,
So sunk in guilt, so hid from Reason's beam,
As not to see the fixed Divine controul,
Which guides the course of the revolving pole?
Who in the silence of the tranquil night,
Unmoved beholds the silvery orbs of light;
Or feels no transport through his bosom thrill,
When morn comes sporting on the fragrant hill;
Or sees, with godless thought, day's regent guide,
His purple chariot from the eastern tide,
Like some young bridegroom glorious to behold,
Arrayed in gems, and bright with floating gold;
Till down the expanse he bids his coursers fly,
Hurling the day beneath the western sky,
High o'er the thundering steeds august he stands,
Like a tall giant with his hundred hands,
Of princely port, and majesty, and might,
Proud of his strength, and robed in dazzling light,
From east to west he whirls his burning car,
Through heaven oblique amid each glowing star,
And pours around the vital heat and soul,
Which warm, support, adorn, and fill the whole.
But all the glories of th' harmonious plan,
Ne'er so arrest the wondering thoughts of man,
As Conscience, inmate of celestial birth,
Child of the skies, but tenant of the earth,
With that celestial law in mercy given,
By secret reins, to guide the soul to Heaven.

Th' Almighty's promise, ever void of guile,
Can soothe despair, and make affliction smile,
But when blind Passion prompts the guilty deed,
That man shall suffer, Justice has decreed,
That loving Justice, in an angel's dress,
Which wounds to cure, and punishes to bless.

Lo! fair Religion's venerated mien,
For ever shines in majesty serene;
'Tis hers to pour upon the mental sight,
Truth's living ray, and wisdom's cheering light;
Guarded from age to age, with fear and awe,
On brazen tablets lives her precious law,
Than gems more rare, or gold's resplendent ore,
And sweeter than the bee's mellifluous store.

Deep in the inmost closet of his breast,
Thy child, great Sire! shall lock each high behest,
And then, with holy awe, shall ever guard,
Thy love, his hope, his glory, and reward.

Who knows the wanderings of the vagrant mind,
What power can seize them, or what wisdom find?
Do thou, O Lord! each imperfection blot,
Nor leave the vestige of a single spot,
Which Sin or Error, with insiduous art,
Stamps on the tablet of th' unguarded heart,
From Pride's dominion arrogant and dire,
Preserve the kingdom of my breast entire,
And save, O save me! from each sinful care,
From passion's impulse and temptation's snare.

These warm effusions of a heart sincere,
Author of good, my God, my father, hear!
Whate'er my tongue imperfect has exprest,
Whate'er the thoughts revolving in my breast,
Tower of my safety, and thou God of love,
Receive propitious in thy realms above.

March, 1809.

SELECT POETRY.

VERSES

WRITTEN FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY FOR REVIVING THE IRISH HARP.

OH had I liv'd when Ossian sung
Old Erin's sons renown'd in story;
While o'er his harp the warriors hung,
And caught the kindling flame of glory!
Or when around the festive board
That cheer'd the chiefs in Tara dwelling,
The Bard, the tide of music pour'd
With Joy and grief alternate swelling:
May thoughts like these our bosoms cheer,
As round we pass the bowl of pleasure;
And may the ever-circling year,
Again renew the blissful measure.

Yet though within the narrow cell,
The fathers of the song are sleeping,
And o'er the scenes they loved so well,
Oblivion's silent mists are creeping;
Once more revives the sound of arms,
The tale of Love, the note of Sorrow,
And every strain that once had charms.
A softer tone from time shall borrow.
May thoughts, &c.

When sound your Harps, ye bards of old,
Who sung, when Erin was a nation,
What ear so dull, what heart so cold,
But echoing thrills in sweet vibration?
Instruct thy sons of latter days,
To catch some portion of thy spirit,
For, oh! when best the song they raise,
Though their's the crown, yet your's the merit!
May thoughts, &c.

Your's is the spell that crowns the bowl,
With joy while every eye is lighted;
And your's the beam that lights the soul,
By nature's rigid law benighted.
For though no dawn of day appear,
To hail the sightless child of sorrow;
You teach them from the rapt'ur'd ear,
A new created bliss to borrow.
May thoughts, &c.

And your's the voice to charm us here,
In social brotherhood unite us;
And your's to bid the unborn year,
To scenes like this again invite us.
From tongue to tongue shall memory dwell
On tales of Erin's ancient glory,
And minstrels yet unborn shall tell
To wond'ring worlds the matchless story.
May thoughts, &c.

SONG, ON THE SAME OCCASION.

AIR—"KITTY TYRREL."

LAST Minstrel of Erin how sweetly thy finger
In strains of wild melody sweeps o'er the strings,
While each lengthen'd vibration seems slowly to linger,
And say "'tis the genius of Erin that sings."
Our hearts wildly thrill with extatic emotion,
As ravish'd we list to thy heavenly strain,
Thy wild notes would tame the rude spirit of ocean,
And make the poor captive forget all his pain.
And shall then thy warm earnest prayer be rejected?
Shall the song of the Minstrel be suffered to die?
No! the Harp, of Ierne no longer neglected,
Shall again draw a tear from the patriot eye,
For Belfast still contains a few generous spirits,
That burn to revive "the sweet song of the bard,"
All who see their exertions, shall speak of their merits,
And honour unfading shall be their reward.

SONG.

FROM THE SELECTION OF IRISH MELODIES BY SIR JOHN STEPHENSON, MUS. DOC. AND THOS. MOORE, ESQ.

AIR—"BLACK JOKE."

SUBLIME was the warning which Liberty spoke,
And grand was the moment when Spaniards awoke,

Into life and revenge from the conqueror's chain!
Oh Liberty! let not this spirit have rest,
Till it move, like a breeze, o'er the waves of the west,
Give the light of your look to each sorrowful spot,
Nor Oh! be the shamrock of Erin forgot,
While you add to your garland the olive of Spain.

If the fame of our fathers, bequeath'd with their rights,
Give to country its charm, and to home its delights,
If deceit be a wound and suspicion a stain;
Then ye men of Iberia, our cause is the same,
And oh! may his tomb want a tear and a name,
Who would ask for a nobler, a holier death,
Than to turn his last sigh into victory's breath,
For the shamrock of Erin, and olive of Spain.

Ye Blakes and O'Donnels, whose fathers resign'd
The green hills of their youth, among strangers to find
That repose, which at home, they had sigh'd for in vain;
Breathe a hope that the magical flame which you light,
May be felt yet in Erin, as calm, and as bright,
And forgive even Albion, while blushing she draws,
Like a truant, her sword, in the long slighted cause,
Of the shamrock of Erin, and olive of Spain.

God prosper the cause—oh! it cannot but thrive,
While the pulse of one patriot heart is alive,
Its devotion to feel and its rights to maintain;
Then, how sainted by sorrow its martyrs will die,
The finger of glory shall point where they lie,
While, far from the footstep of coward or slave,
The young spirit of Freedom shall shelter their grave,
Beneath shamrocks of Erin and olives of Spain.

EPIGRAM ON THE FUNERALS OF LORD NELSON AND THE HON. W. PITT, ADDRESSED TO BONAPARTE.

BY GENERAL FITZPATRICK.

FROWN not at funeral honours paid to him,
Who oft has beat thy fleet,
Since the same pomp awaits on Pitt,
Whose blunders made thee great.

ANCIENT LITERATURE.

The comparative authenticity of Tacitus and Suetonius, illustrated by the question, "Whether Nero was the Author of the Memorable Conflagration at Rome?" By Arthur Browne, L.L.D. S.F.T.C.D. and M.R.I.A.

SO much has been said of the candour of Suetonius, and of his work being the most accurate narration extant of the lives of the Emperors, that it is worth the pains to inquire how far these praises are due. Others are said to have been actuated by hatred, or slaves to adulation; he is represented alone as fair and uninfluenced.* For my own part I so much differ from this opinion, that I have ever considered the rank allotted to Suetonius, in the scale of historical merit, as elevated much beyond his deserts. I am not inclined to trust either his candour or his accuracy, particularly when opposed to, or compared with his rival historian. We are accustomed, I know not how, at an early age, from cotemporary studies, to unite the names of cotemporary historians, and from thence perhaps insensibly to infer a similarity of excellence. The authors perused treat of the same facts, they are read at the same time, and the mind is yet too young for accurate discrimination. May not such associations have had some effect with respect to Suetonius and Tacitus? But the exercise of maturer judgmen readily

* See the encomiums collected by Pitiscus, in the preface to his edition of Suetonius.

separates such unions, and detects the apparent parallelism of objects, which, sufficiently pursued, will be found in time infinitely to diverge. This judgment, however, is, in many cases never exercised at all.

A premature perusal of the classics often prevents a subsequent cool revisal of their beauties and their merits; impels the man to consider the subjects of the studies of the boy as trifling and disgusting, and indolently to acquiesce in first impressions, rather than retrace steps which appeared unpleasant because involuntary. But he who at maturer years is led by taste or inclination to examine and compare the lights of antiquity, will be astonished at the numerous detections of his errors first imbibed, and corrections of the implicit faith which he has put in some of its oracles; and perhaps no where will he find less reason for confidence than in the secretary of Adrian (for such was Suetonius) however high his post or good his means of information.

The title of this Essay indicates my intention to confine my observations to the comparative fidelity in narration of the celebrated writers therein mentioned, without touching on their other relative perfections or imperfections. The instance which I have selected to illustrate this point (for abundance of them might be found*) may to some appear trifling; and it may be asked, who, in the eighteenth century, can be interested in the question, whether Rome, in the first, was burnt by the hand of her natural protector, or of what utility is the discussion which tends to wash away one spot from the bloody garb of Nero? The objection should not come from the theoretic lover of truth, never despising inquiry and discrimination; nor will the expulsion of falsehood from history ever appear trifling to its practical admirers. The question too is not totally unconnected with the well-known controversy on morals, on the existence of gratuitous malevolence, as any alleged motives for this supposed conduct of the tyrant are utterly unsatisfactory to the rational mind.* But its chief importance rests on the grounds I have premised. If we detect an historian in any one instance, in a peremptory and dogmatical assertion of a disputed, nay an improbable charge, have we not cause to view his writings with general suspicion, and scrutinize with jealous eye his accuracy or his candour? And we cannot select a better example than that of a direct and unqualified allegation of a plain and simple fact, into which, if false, the writer could not from any circumstances be supposed to be innocently or unwittingly betrayed.

Suetonius, then, directly and circumstantially ascribes the conflagration at Rome in the time of Nero to that detested Emperor, while Tacitus only says, *forte an dolo Imperatoris incertum.* The authority of the former seems to have prevailed, and few traditions have been more strongly believed, or sayings more frequently applied, than, "that Nero fiddled while Rome was burning." I apprehend therefore that the following arguments to the contrary will have at least the

* Such as Suetonius' assertion, that Tiberius abolished the privilege of sanctuary, when the contrary, which is asserted by Tacitus, is proved beyond a doubt, by coins subsequent to his reign; his making Germanicus conquer a king of Armenia, when Armenia had no king, and was not at war with Rome; his representation of the character of Nero, in many respects differing from the traits given by Tacitus and others; his mentioning the loss of an army in Asia, when from Tacitus it appears it was only the rumour of such a loss. Surely these variances would not have appeared trifling to Lipsius, who took such pains to reconcile these authors, when differing in the point, Whether Agrippa Posthumus was killed by a *centurion* or a *tribune* of the soldiers. Josephus observes, that no man's character has been more misrepresented from adulation on the one side and prejudice on the other, than Nero's.

* The desire of seeing the resemblance of Troy in flames is too childish to be imputed even to the fantastical mind of Nero, and the design of burning a great city in order to improve and rebuild it, if indeed necessary, in the plentitude of his power, for such object (while under our moderate government similar improvement is without difficulty attained on valuing the houses pulled down) does not seem to be confirmed by his subsequent actions.

recommendation of novelty, as the opposite opinion has never been hinted by any writer whom I have met, except the Abbé Millot, who annexes no reasons for his doubts.

The reader who recollects the idle calumnies, which, upon a similar occasion, were thrown out against a Prince of our own, Charles the Second, and the numberless insinuations of opposite parties at that period, branding each other with the name of incendiaries, will not incautiously assent to the rumour bred by inflamed imaginations, ascribing to malice the offspring of accident.

Whoever has implicitly believed that Rome was burnt by Nero, will find, to his surprise, on the first peep into Tacitus, this passage, *Hoc tempore, Nero Antii agens*, the paragraph which first indeed, by exciting my wonder, drew my attention to this subject. The man, who is depicted as sitting on a lofty tower of his palace, attuning to the harp the poet's numbers on the destruction of Troy, in the midst of the imperial city, with whose fires his eyes were feasted, was not, at their commencement at least, in Rome at all. This should seem almost to terminate the question: but, no! the critic will say, Antium was only ten miles from Rome, and the Emperor had ample time to arrive there long before the extinction of the flames; in fact he did so, when he found that the most vigorous orders which he had issued from Antium had no effect. Such orders he had issued, and it shows his alacrity in trying to have the fire extinguished before his arrival. Let us see then how he acted after his arrival. During the very confusion and terror of the conflagration it may have been difficult to ascertain the conduct of the Prince; and it is during that period that Suetonius charges him with encouraging the flames and cherishing the incendiaries. "Voices of men," says he, "were heard, exclaiming that they acted by orders from the Emperor, and emissaries from his very household might have been apprehended in the act of spreading the flames." That the Emperor should have been absurd enough to furnish incendiaries with the authority of his name is incredible; but let us remember that within three years past the destroyers of the castles of the nobility in France pleaded authority from that king whose throne they were on the point of overturning. To these idle tales I oppose the acknowledged behaviour of Nero, after the extinction of the fire, when it stands unveiled by that cloud of confusion and rumour which always attends present calamity. He opened his gardens for the sufferers, he pitched tents for them, he laboured to provide them with necessaries, he cheapened the price of corn; such are the testimonies of Tacitus. On his previous absence, on his subsequent conduct, I might perhaps then rest his innocence; but it is confirmed by some other strong arguments to which I now proceed.

The Emperor is charged with setting fire to the city, that he might enjoy the beauty of the sight. It appears from Tacitus, that so far from coveting the spectacle, his fault was, indolent reluctance to move from Antium. He issued from thence the most vigorous orders for extinguishing the flames, but he refused to stir till his own palace was on fire. It was in this situation that he must be supposed to have run up with his harp, immediately on his arrival, to the top of the tower of Mæcenas; a station where he stood a very reasonable chance of being broiled for his pains. The supposition is too ludicrous to admit a doubt of its falsehood; and this being as confidently asserted as any circumstance, must make us doubt of the truth of all the rest. Let us combine, then, the absence of the Emperor from the capital when the fire began, his active orders before he left Antium, his unwillingness to leave it, the situation of the city on his arrival, and his behaviour after the conflagration, and see where we can find the least probable trace of the tale of Suetonius.

The spot where the fire broke out affords another very strong argument of want of design; *In prædiis Tigellini Æmilianis proruperat*, says Tacitus. He observes, indeed, that *plus infamiæ incendium habuit*, for that reason, that is, because it was on the estate of Tigellinus; but where were these Prædia? In the district called the Æmiliana. Now this district was quite without the city, as any one will find upon con-

sulting the plan of ancient Rome. *Eorum ædificia qui habitant extra Portam Frumentariam, aut in Æmilianis,* says Varro, lib. iii. *de re Rustica.* What could have induced the Emperor, whose abilities do not seem to have been contemptible, to have adopted such an extraordinary method of firing the city, by kindling the flame in its remotest suburbs? "He was accused," says Tacitus, "of having been actuated with the desire of founding a new city, and calling it by his name." Did he do so? And what prevented him? The consequence did not follow, and the imputed means were absurdly disproportionate to the motive.

That the fire in the Æmiliana was accidental will become more than probable, when we find that it was a quarter where dangerous and extensive conflagrations had happened before. It appears from Suetonius, in his account of the reign of Claudius, chap. xviii. that one had obstinately raged in this region, during the life of that Prince: *Ubi Æmiliana pertinacius arderent.* And it appears that it was of consequence enough to call for the presence and incessant labour of the Emperor himself and his whole court: We may reasonably conjecture, therefore, that it was a part of the suburbs, for some reason or other, perhaps by being the site of hazardous manufactures, particularly exposed and obnoxious to these calamities.

It is true that Tacitus, in another place, says, with a seeming contradiction, *Initium in ea parte Circi ortum, quæ Palatino Cœlioque Montibus contigua est;* and Fleury in his Ecclesiastical History, founding the assertion on this passage, says it broke out in some shops about the Circus, without taking notice of the other alledged site of its commencement.

The commentators on Tacitus have endeavoured to reconcile the difference, and insist that it broke out in two places, the Circus and the Æmiliana. Now, as to the Circus, Tacitus himself accounts for its rise and progress there, *Ubi per tabernas, quibus id Mercimonium inerat quo flamma alitur, cœptus ignis.* The fire began in certain shops filled with inflammable materials, and naturally calculated to originate and diffuse the flames. Where they could so easily be accounted for, who would have seen, reflected by their light, the deadly visage of the tyrant, but those whose horrors of his crimes and terror of his wickedness raised on every occasion the imperial phantom before their alarmed imaginations. Let us not fear that by deducting this little burthen of guilt we shall leave too small a portion of infamy to satiate resentment and deter imitation. The bloody roll of Nero's crimes will scarcely appear diminished by expunging this inferior title to abhorrence.

It is an inferior circumstance, yet not entirely unworthy of note, that the rumours which had reached the ears of the two historians, as to Nero's conduct, essentially varied. To the one he had been represented as going openly and publicly to the summit of Mæcenas' tower to sing the fate of Troy, while to the other he was depicted as retiring into his private apartments *(in domesticam scenam)* there secretly to enjoy the devestation of his groaning country. Uncertainty and contradiction are the sisters of unfounded report.

From the account given us of this event by Tacitus, we find that the Emperor's object, in at length leaving Antium to go to Rome, was to save his palace. Now in this he did not succeed. The palace was destroyed, and yet he is afterwards accused of constructing a new palace of wonderful magnificence out of the ruins of his country (*Usus est patriæ ruinis*, says Tacitus) not without insinuation that such might have been partly the object of the antecedent devastation. There is nothing in his previous conduct to support the suspicion, for he was anxious to save his former residence, and to prevent the necessity of erecting a new one.

The anxiety of Nero to avoid the charge is utterly incompatible with the narration of Suetonius, *Incendit urbem tam palam*, says that historian, *Ut plerique Consulares, Cubicularios ejus, cum stupa tædaque, in prædiis suis deprehensos non attigerint.* It is incredible that he, who so much dreaded the imputation, should have committed the fact without disguise. That he

used every exertion to avert the charge appears from Tacitus—by anxious and active care to expedite the rebuilding of the city—by princely largesses to the sufferers—by supplications and atoning sacrifices to the gods, he laboured to extricate himself from the infamy. It is true he was not successful. Such was the odium against him. *Non ope humana, non largitionibus principis, aut deûm placamentis decedebat infamia.* He then endeavoured to throw the suspicion on the Christians, since he found the world too prejudiced to ascribe the event to accident—with equal want of success indeed. But all which I wish to infer is, that this extreme anxiety confutes the notion of his rash unguarded promotion of the calamity; and that he was particularly distressed at this rumour appears from his known character, which was, in general, to despise all rumours, *Nihil patientius quam maledicta et convitia hominum tulit.*—Suetonius, p. 258.

The extent of the power of prejudice against this miserable Prince, at this period, cannot be more strongly exemplified than in the murmurs which Tacitus mentions, occasioned by his opening the city and widening the streets, because, as was alleged, the old narrow streets and lofty houses contributed exceedingly to the salubrity of Rome, by protecting the passengers from the heat of the sun. I will even draw an argument from the virulence of Suetonius. "He would not suffer," says that writer, "the bodies of the dead who perished in the fire, to be burnt by their friends, nor the ruins of the edifices to be removed by the owners, but took the charge upon himself, for the sake of plunder." Whether those who were burnt already required to be burnt again I know not; but does not the ill-nature of the remark proclaim the inclination of the author! Is it not more natural to suppose, that the fear of pestilence, from the exposition of bodies left to the random care of individuals, in a time of general distraction, required the interposition of government and the adoption of public regulations, to prevent the possibility of private negligence? And was it not right in the governing power of the state to refuse to trust to the weakness or indolence of the subject, the office of removing rubbish and ruins, whose immense heaps forbade improvement and postponed renovation?

The truth is, when Suetonius wrote, invective against the race of Cæsar opened the way to honour and preferment. Abuse of the Augustan family was the fashion of succeeding times, and the instrument of flattery with succeeding Emperors. With infinite caution, therefore, are we to admit the adulatory invective of the writers of the age of Trajan. The fidelity of history was made to bow to the etiquette of courts and the interest of historians.

This propensity to blacken the Cæsars, received, in the particular instance of Nero, additional height in latter times from the enmity of the Christians. His cruel persecution of Christianity, and his inordinate wickedness, in averting upon its votaries the calumny thrown upon himself, with the signal martyrdoms of St. Peter and St. Paul, under his dominion, have stamped him with the most sanguinary dye in the annals of religion. It was natural to surmise that the man who so unjustly accused others, had not been unjustly accused himself. His innocence was supposed to include their crimination; and as the empire became Christian, it became in a manner impious to doubt his guilt.

On whom does the authority of this legend rest? As appears to me, on the character of Suetonius alone. The careful peruser of Tacitus will, I think, agree with me, that he did not believe the tale; he wrote before Suetonius; and possessed earlier and better channels of inquiry. Suetonius was secretary to Adrain, whose reign was preceded by the death of Tacitus.* The next author who mentions the charge with confidence is Dio Cassius, who lived in the reign of Alexander Severus, two hundred years after the event; no testimony can go beyond its first original; the tribe of servile copiers add not a jot of weight to the evidence.

Aurelius Victor, Eutropius, Marcus Aurelius Cassiodorus and Jornandes, the

* As is generally supposed.

only subsequent Latin writers who repeat the clamour, merely echo the assertions of Suetonius and Dio. They could not be much better judges of the matter than we at this day, had they even taken the trouble to weigh the evidence. Aurelius Victor and Eutropius lived at a period three hundred years distant from the time of the conflagration, in the reigns of Julian and Valentinian; Cassiodorus was consul under Theodoric, and born in 476; and Jornandes, in Justinian's age, was secretary to a king of the Goths. As to the principal modern writers who assert and insist on the fact, and particularly the ecclesiastical historians, Xiphilinus, Vitranius and Sulpicius, though they lived earlier than Fleury, who in the present century supports their opinion, their assertions can have no more weight than his, nor their knowledge of the facts be greater than ours. Xiphilinus was the professed abridger of Dio Cassius. Dio repeated from Suetonius, and upon the foundation of Suetonius' authority the whole fabric must ultimately depend. If any thing has been added, it has probably been the work of exuberant imagination, like that of Karholtus of Hamburgh, a modern ecclesiastical writer, who represents the Emperor at a banquet sending forth troops of incendiaries, and sitting to hear at intervals the triumphant tale of their horrid exploits, a picture of which he could not have found the least trait in any ancient historian. It remains only to observe, that Suetonius, the father of this tale, could not have been unwittingly deceived into this assertion.

Thus have I endeavoured to scrutinize, in this instance, the accuracy and authenticity of Suetonius, which may be a clue to his general character as a writer, the only object perhaps which could have justified my calling the attention to a question so remote, and seemingly so uninteresting.

Always, as I have said, has that historian appeared to me to be overrated; the indecency of his descriptions has been often condemned, and it was well observed, that Suetonius wrote the lives of the Emperors with the same licentiousness with which they lived. Were I to compare Suetonius with any writer of our own time, in point of credit due to his narration, I would scarcely assign him a place superior to Smollet's; I mean not with respect to composition, but as to authenticity and materials Both of them seem to have compiled from the *actus diurni*, or newspapers of the day, and to merit equal authority with those crude and hasty chronicles. If the one has lived for eighteen centuries, while the other possibly may not for one, it has perhaps been owing to the charms of his composition, not to the dignity of his history.

If these remarks shall in any degree tend to ascertain the rank of this famed historian in the scale of history, or rather by calling the attention of more accurate observers to the general complexion of his works, to induce them to ascertain it, they have an importance which at this remote time they could not borrow from the subject itself. They may perhaps also derive some additional claim to attention, from the circumstance of a celebrated attack having been lately made by Mr. Whitaker of Manchester, on the authenticity of his rival historian, in a comparison between Tacitus and Gibbon.

Trans. R. I. Acad.

REVIEW OF NEW PUBLICATIONS.

A Letter to Lord Viscount Southwell, containing Remarks on vesting in his Majesty the nomination of Catholic Bishops....By J. B. Trotter, Esq. late private Secretary to the Right Honourable Charles James Fox....Dublin, Printed by H. Fitzpatrick, Capel-street. 1808. *p.p.* 36. *price,* 1s. 8d.

SINCERELY attached to Catholic Emancipation, on the broad principle, that the State ought to have no cognizance over opinions on the subject of religion, we rejoiced at the more liberal practice which had for some time prevailed, to do away the penal code, and remove disabilities on account of difference of opinions. We therefore cannot but regret that a mistaken policy has latterly interrupted the progress of this good work, and that temporary party politics

should be permitted to frustrate the dictates of justice and sound policy.

In the discussion which took place in the last session of Parliament, hints were thrown out, that in case of the remaining restrictions on Catholics being removed, the Catholics would concede to the King, or in other words, to the Minister of the day, the right of rejection on the nomination of their Bishops. This measure appears to have been proposed from a desire to facilitate the adoption of the plan of emancipation, by blunting the edge of prejudice. This was to be effected by strengthening the hands of government, to allay the fears of the timid, and to gratify the wish of some, by throwing additional power to a quarter, which although already possessing great power, is still desirous to grasp at more. The Commons of England, about twenty-seven years ago, resolved, "that the power of the Crown had increased, was increasing, and ought to be diminished;" and certainly the current of events, since that period has not tended to diminish this power.

Much discussion has since taken place, on this subject of the Veto, as it is technically called, among the Catholic body. The landed interest among them appear generally in favour of making this concession. The Bishops at a general meeting have resolved, that it is inexpedient to allow this power to the King, though in an explanation which was afterwards given by one of their body, it is admitted that the granting of this power is not inconsistent with the essential doctrines of the Catholic church. The letter to Lord Southwell, now under review is written to support the negative side of conceding this power; and the writer discovers a warm and liberal heart. In venturing to differ from him, on some parts of this letter, we enter on the subject with great reluctance: but candour and a sense of duty are paramount obligations, when we do speak, to speak with sincerity and plainness.

The subject appears to be unnecessarily complicated with the Union. The introduction of political considerations on one side frequently draws on a recurrence to a similar mode of reasoning on the other, in a matter in which they ought to have no place on either side: neither does it appear necessary to the proper elucidation of the subject, to recur to motives founded on the stamp of antiquity, or drawn from national vanity. The doctrine of unlimited liberty of religious opinions, stands on a securer basis, than on an adherence to sentiments merely because they had been adopted by our ancestors, or come recommended to us by the pomp of mouldering towers, and venerable ruins. The latter mode of treating the subject has the appearance of an attempt to remove prejudice, by means of other prejudices. If such sentiments were to prevail, where would be the progressive improvement of mankind? One generation would then follow another in the same beaten track. We, slaves to the opinions of our ancestors, and in succession to become ancestors to our posterity. Antiquity adds no weight to opinions. Arguments calmly produced are the only weapons which truth allows her votaries to use. Man should think, and allow others to think unmolested and undisturbed, without attempts on any side to point the finger of ridicule, or to add the weight of legal disqualifications against the adherents either to old or new opinions.

In advocating the just claims of the oppressed, it is not necessary to identify ourselves with them in an approbation of their opinions. Through an amiable error, a generous heart may be sometimes induced to mix strong feelings in this manner, and to combine two things essentially different. In thus expressing ourselves let it not be thought that we wish in the smallest degree, to fritter away the rights of the Catholics to entire emancipation. Far from us be the thought! The aim is to hold an even balance. They have a right to exercise private judgment, unfettered by pains and penalties. We have the same, and cannot relinquish through a complaisance to the opinions of others, the free expression of our own. The energetic language of Mirabeau is consecrated by its soundness and striking propriety. "The communion of every man with the most High is independent of all political institution. There is a pre-

perty which no man wishes to make common: the movements of his soul, and the transports of his mind. The examination of principles, considered as opinions, concern us no more. Between God and the heart of man, what government dares to interfere!"

This pamphlet abounds with many good arguments, to show the impolicy of vesting in the crown the right of exercising a power of rejection over the nomination of the Bishops. In these remarks the Reviewer fully coincides. But he also takes the liberty to inquire why is dependence on any external power necessary? May not the nomination of Catholic Bishops be equally independent of the Pope as of the King? Dr. O'Reilly admits that this right of election consists with the general principle of their Church, and Charles Butler, a late Catholic writer, has shown that this mode is practised by them in other countries. Many important advantages would appear to result from the adoption of this independent mode, for which some enlightened Catholics are zealous advocates. Some years ago the Bishops were nominated by the Pope, mostly by the influence of the Catholic aristocracy of Ireland. Latterly the clergy of the diocese return the name of the object of their choice to the Pope, for his approbation. A germ of improvement may be perceived in this manner of election, and we trust there is room to hail the increasing liberality of future days.

The friends to free discussion, well knowing the inestimable value of it, cannot but be anxious that it should universally prevail; and that Catholics and Protestants, however they may differ in some respects, forgetting former times, in which both have erred, may cordially unite in the wish that the disposition and power to persecute for diversity of opinion may cease. As the possession of power has a strong tendency to corrupt the human heart, let us hope for the extension and prevalence of that liberal policy, when neither party shall have the dominancy over the other; but both be contented without seeking for mastery, to live as brethren. In former days both parties set up a *standard mind*, and mutually persecuted each other. The absurdity of forcing opinions is gradually becoming more apparent, and notwithstanding some unfavourable paroxysms now and then occurring, we have confidence in the progress of liberality, and in an enlightened and enlarged policy superceding the dogmata of intolerance and bigotry. K.

An Introduction to the Irish Language, in three parts, 1, an Original and Comprehensive Grammar. 2, Familiar Phrases and Dialogues. 3, Extracts from Irish Books and Manuscripts, in the Original character, with copious Tables of the Contractions. By the Rev. W. Neilson, D. D. p.p. 282. Dublin, Wogan, 1808. *price* 6s. 6d.

INTERESTED as we feel for every publication which respects the honour and improvement of our country, we have not contemplated without pleasure, the recent attempts which have been making to introduce a taste for the study of the Irish language. A language which is spoken by at least one third of the inhabitants of the British isles, and by more than three fourths of the natives of Ireland, has some claim to attention; especially in an age which boasts of its familiarity with the dialects of the East, of having penetrated the wilds of Africa in quest of knowledge, and enriched its etymological repositories by vocabularies from the islands of the Pacific, and the banks of the Ohio.

Many circumstances, however, have contributed to discourage the study of our vernacular tongue. The distracted state of the country was for many ages unfavourable to its cultivation, and the narrow and mistaken policy of England, during the reigns of Elizabeth and James I. passed strict injunctions to prevent it from being longer spoken in our schools. Due care also has been taken to depreciate its beauty and excellence, by representing it as harsh and unmusical, abounding in guttural sounds, and aspirates, and presenting a constant discordance between its orthography and pronunciation. When Anne with a liberality worthy of a Queen, proposed to establish Professorships of the Irish language, in her universities, she was dissuaded by the Duke of

Ormond, who, to convince her that it was a barbarous dialect, resembling the barking of a dog, constructed the following harsh and nonsensical sentence, *d'ith damh dubh obh amh, i. e.* a black ox eat a raw egg. This specimen, it must be acknowledged, is not very harmonious, but where is there a combination of harsher sounds than that contained in the translation? "a black ox eat a raw egg!"

Those who are well versed in the Irish language, and they are the proper judges, contend that in harmony, copiousness, and strength, it equals the ancient Greek; that it is the root of the Latin of the twelve tables; that it was spoken by Hamilcar and Hannibal; and that it was not only the primitive language of Europe, and of a great part of Asia and Africa, but of paradise itself.

Though we do not carry our ideas of its antiquity to quite so remote a period, we readily agree with the learned Vallancey, "that it is free from the anomalies, sterility, and heteroclite redundancies, which mark the dialects of barbarous nations; it is rich and melodious; it is precise and copious, and affords these elegant conversions, which no other than a thinking and lettered people can use or require." "*Est quidem Lingua Hibernica, et elegans cum primis, et opulenta,*" says the learned Usher. Of its indispensible necessity to the antiquarian, the ingenious author of the Archæologia Britannica, has given ample testimony. He found in Irish the origin of many words, whose roots he had vainly endeavoured to find in the Welsh, the Cornish, and Armoric.

That the Irish language is calculated to express the warmest feelings of the heart, with peculiar force and pathos, every one who has but a superficial knowledge of our Bardic compositions, must allow. The warm-hearted, generous, and high spirited Irishman, would soon have created a language, had he not been taught one, expressive of his feelings. Accordingly the wild strains of our Bards have long been a subject of great and deserved admiration, and there are flowers of poesy to be culled in the unfrequented, and almost unknown paths of the Hibernian Muse, not less beautiful and fragrant, than those which adorned Parnassus or bloomed by the banks of the Helicon.

The principal objection to the study of the Irish language, is the scarcity of valuable books. Such as have escaped the ravages of time, and the persecution of more formidable enemies, are now difficult of access, being locked up in the cabinets of the curious, or the libraries of universities. There is reason, however to hope that this objection will soon be removed, and that our ancient historical records, poems, and other compositions will be drawn from their obscurity. A Society has been lately established in Dublin, for the investigation and revival of ancient Irish literature, and a volume published under their auspices containing several important tracts in the original Gælic or Irish, literally translated into English. The author of this work waits only for public patronage, which we sincerely wish may be literally granted, to publish the Finnian Tales and Poems, the source of M'Pherson's Ossianic imposture, in their genuine form.

It is humiliating to the pride of Irish literature, to reflect that its chief promoters have been obliged to foreign countries for a patronage and support which they vainly solicited at home. The first grammar of our language was published by the Rev. Francis O'Molloy at Rome in 1677, and the second by H. M'Curtin, at Louvain in 1728. These were followed by that of general Vallancey in 1782. The Rev. Mr. Shaw, and the Rev, Mr. Stewart, natives of Scotland, have also contributed to the revival of the Gaelic tongue by the publication of their respective Grammars.

In 1795, the Belfast press published a Gælic Magazine, *Bolg an tsolair*, containing some of the elements of Grammar, and a variety of selections from the translations of Miss Brook. It was intended to continue the publication, but from want of encouragement, or some other cause, which we have not been able to ascertain, only one number made its appearance. Two new Grammars have been just published, one by an anonymous author, who need not be ashamed to declare his name, and the other which is the subject of Review, by the Rev. Dr. Neilson, of Dundalk.

We are pleased to meet in the preface of the former, the following just tribute to General Vallancey. "This profound and erudite scholar has successfully endeavoured to rescue our language from oblivion; he published an elaborate Grammar of it, which contains much curious and original information, and particularly *a laborious arrangement of the irregular verbs, for which every successive Grammarian must acknowledge himself particularly indebted.*" We coincide perfectly in this opinion, and think it would not have detracted any thing from the merit of Dr. Neilson's work to have made the same candid acknowledgement, though it might have suggested to him the propriety of expunging the word "original" from his title page. His Grammar neither is nor could be original. See M'Curtin, Vallancey, and Shaw: from all of whom he has been obliged to borrow, and from whom, if he had not borrowed, his work must of necessity have been defective. Could any man at the present day compose an original French or English Grammar? We may improve on the labours of our predecessors, but to speak of originality is absurd. We make these observations not to extenuate the merits of the work. We have long entertained a high opinion of Dr. Neilson's erudition, and hope that he may enjoy the due reward of his labours, fame and profit. Every classical scholar should feel indebted to him for his excellent Greek Exercises. That he has rendered a service to the cause of Irish letters the work before us clearly evinces. It is a work of time, labour, and an accurate knowledge of the language. It is also the most copious we have seen. Indeed we think it faulty in this respect, and though we should be unwilling to suspect Dr. Neilson of an inclination to book-making, we were rather surprised to find that he had extended the declension of the verb *Bi*, through no less than five octavo pages, and *Buail* through eight and a half. He has sacrificed too much to modern opinion, and to the prevalent propensity of assimilating all languages in their Etymology and Syntax to Latin and Greek. This is particularly observable in the declension of the verbs. Tense follows tense, and mode follows mode, which neither the genius of the language, nor the custom of our fore-fathers will justify. The Irish, like the Hebrew, has only two modes, the indicative and imperative, "The expressions of conditional will, possibility, liberty, obligation, &c. which form the optative mode in Greek, and the subjunctive mode in Latin are all formed by certain auxiliaries annexed to the indicative mode." As Grammars are intended for the use of learners, simplicity cannot be too much studied, and for this reason we prefer the formula of the conjugation of the verbs *Danaim* and *Brisim*, contained in the 85th page of the anonymous Grammar. The learner of moderate capacity can commit them both to memory in a short time, and obtain from them a clear and accurate idea of the conjugation of other verbs. But the very appearance of Dr. Neilson's *Buail*, with its present affirmatives, and present negatives, present and future affirmatives, and present and future negatives; consuetudinal affirmatives, and consuetudinal negatives, with its optative moods, &c. is absolutely terrifying, and seems to present at the very commencement, an insurmountable obstacle to the beginner.

Particular attention has been paid to the Syntax, and each rule is illustrated by a great number and variety of examples. The work also contains some familiar dialogues which will be useful to the student, and a translation of the songs of Deardra, from the death of the three sons of Usna. If these were intended for an exercise to learners, they are too loosely translated, and we should prefer O'Flanagan's mode, though more shackled, of rendering word for word.

"Delight of my soul, a shower of tears shall fall upon your grave, is not a translation of"

O cuaid mo leannan uaimsi,
Do dean air uaige ceata.

Since thou art gone from me, my beloved, a shower, &c.

We particularly object to the translation of the following verse,

Glean laoige, on glean laoige
Do 'codlainn san mhoirin min:
Iasg, is fion, is saill bruic,
Fa hi mo cuid angleann laoige.

Glenlee, oh Glenlee! amidst thy

shady thickets I slept, or feasted with my love in Glenlee.

Thus literally by O'Flanagan,

Vale of Laith, O in the vale of Laith
I used to sleep under soft coverlets,
Fish and venison, and the delicious prime of the badger,
Was my repast in the vale of Laith.

A principal object of learning languages is to acquire a knowledge of the manners and customs of the people by whom they were spoken, and therefore the naked idea of the original, however foreign to our modes, is to be preferred to all the meretricious, and accommodating drapery of translation. Dr. Neilson thought perhaps that it was unbecoming a Lady of Deardra's rank and consequence to praise the delight she had in feasting on a *brock*, and therefore, omitted the passage in his translation. But this very circumstance is an internal evidence of the antiquity of the poem. No such ideas are to be found in M'Pherson's Ossian, a certain proof that it is an imposition. The language and manners of his heroes and heroines are such as never existed in any age nor in any country.

There is a striking difference between the orthographies of Dr. Nelson and O'Flanagan. The latter has been endeavouring to restore the true orthography, and it is much to be wished that Irish scholars would fix on some determinate standard, to prevent the errors of ignorant or careless transcribers. H.

Practical Sermons, on interesting subjects, by Thomas E. Higginson, A.B. Curate of Lambeg, and Master of the Lisburn Academy. Sermon 1st, 8vo. pp. 24. Belfast, Smyth and Lyons. Price, 10d.

THE author's design in publishing this sermon, which we are informed, is intended as the commencement of a series on similar subjects, reflects much credit on him as a teacher of Christianity. They are meant, to use his own words,

"To exhibit a specimen of discourses calculated for general utility, and uniting an exposition of the Christian Faith with its practical tendency, avoiding too frequent recurrence to controversial disputations. He is apprehensive that the generality of our warm disputants have never gathered their creed from the Bible, but having formed an attachment to some favourite sentiment before they were qualified to come to any settled decision from the scriptures, they save themselves the trouble of a laborious research, by using the compilations of some favoured guide, and judge of the doctrines of Scripture by his exposition of them.

"The beauty of truth is best exhibited in the Bible, and were men to employ such a portion of their time in studying it, as they expend on human compositions, and studying it with a proper temper of mind, with a resolution to do, as well as to know their duty, and with an application for divine light and assistance, we should soon see a different aspect of things in the Christian Church; divisions would cease among us, unity would take the place of discord, and truth and righteousness prevail over error and sin.

"To forward this desirable end, to exhort to a spirit of love and union among Christians, and as a great *mean* (means) of promoting it, to an unbiassed enquiry for ourselves into the sacred records, to explain the essential doctrines of our faith in a scriptural and practical manner, and in these eventful times to strengthen the stability of these kingdoms, *wherein only the Ark of God may be said to rest*, by pointing them to the strong hold for strength, and by exhortations to loyalty and piety, is the object the author has in view by his intended publications."

We heartily agree with our author in lamenting the deadly effects of the various differences of opinion existing in the Christian world, both on the happiness of society in general, and on the mind of every individual who devotes his thoughts to the investigation of the controverted points; we also coincide with him, that when the Bible is the standard by which all these differences must be ultimately regulated, it would be better to refer to it at once, than to depend on the expositions given by partial, perhaps ill informed advocates. When the text is plain, why turn to the comment? By this mode of proceeding, one essential point, and which the author of these sermons justly deems of the first

importance, would be established. The perusal of the sacred volume, by showing how frequently the spirit of love and union among mankind is inculcated, that there is not a page which does not teem with precepts and instances to this effect, while the differences in doctrine, which have been the cause of most of the national and many of the private calamities of man, are noticed seldom and occasionally, such a perusal would prove that the instilling of this spirit into the human mind, and making it the grand mover of our thoughts and actions, is the very essence of Christianity. It would be then found that Benevolence, Toleration and Philanthropy, words which have of late years been almost banished from the vocabulary by the clamours of a party, and which are now so little in repute, that their very mention raises an outcry against the speaker, these exceptionable words, or as they are otherwise expressed, "Peace on earth, good will towards men," would be found to be the basis of christianity.

But though we highly approve of the author's motive, it may be questioned whether he has taken the proper method of accomplishing his purpose. If the Bible be the proper source of necessary information, to what purpose are these sermons? That they are not written solely for the purpose of recommending the study of that book, is evident not only from this before us, which is avowedly published as a specimen, but from the words of the author already quoted, that he intends *to explain the essential doctrines of our faith, in a scriptural and practical manner.* By what right is his explanation to supersede all others? Does he think himself competent to a task which has baffled the piety, learning and ingenuity of all the teachers to the present day? While every other commentator who has undertaken to expound the word of truth, has, instead of promoting union, traced the line for some new distinction among christians, does he hope to be able to amalgamate all the heterogeneous sentiments into a coalescent mass, to unite all the branches that are every day dividing in greater numbers, and form them again into a single trunk as at first? That such an union is *possible,* we doubt not; that it will happen, we sincerely hope; but how or when, we dare not venture to conjecture. Yet this is the undertaking on which Mr. Higginson has ventured. Let us see how far the ability of the execution corresponds with the boldness of the attempt.

The subject of the first sermon is of a general nature, totally unconnected with any controverted point among Christians, concerning which there is but one opinion, and requires rather to be recommended to the practice than enforced on the understanding. "What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?" The truth of this as a point of doctrine is undeniable. But as the saving of the soul is a distant motive, while the enjoyment of the world incessantly presses on us, the frequent reiteration of the precept cannot but be useful in directing the enquirer to the proper means of guarding against the one and securing the other. This seems to be the writer's view in this prefatory discourse, and so far it is judiciously prefixed. He proceeds to prove by example the insufficiency of the several sources of worldly happiness, which he classes under the heads of sensual enjoyments, riches and honours. The following quotation will serve as an example both of his style and method of treating his subject.

"Is Bel-hazzar happy? Behold the king feasting with his thousand lords; himself and his princes, his wives and his concubines, drinking out of the golden vessels taken out of the temple of God. What an enviable object of carnal enjoyment! The very existence of the true God ridiculed and despised, *his worship trampled upon,* futurity forgotten, *given up to weak minds,* and present enjoyment all in all. Here, *if you please,* was true philosophy. But behold, in the midst of his drunken riot, a hand writing on the wall, "Thou art weighed in the balance, and found wanting." How are the joints of his loins loosed? How do his knees smite against each other? And how are his thoughts troubled within him? Infidelity now becomes conviction; conviction without profit. That night was Belshazzar king of the Chaldeans slain, and all his pleasures perished with him,

Yet Belshazzar at his death honoured the God of Israel, and Daniel his servant. Alas! it was too late. It is not *dying*, but *living piety* that God requires of us. There is nothing in any situation that precludes us from the worship of the true God. Had Belshazzar honoured Jehovah, and given up his sensuality, he might have been as exalted in his character for his virtues, as he was remarkable for his vices; he might have lived honourable and died happy."

The train of argument in general is rather vague and desultory, and towards the latter part deviating into a kind of wild rhapsody of unconnected expressions which convey no fixed and determinate idea to the mind. But what strikes us as particularly censurable, is, that while the author professes to keep clear of all controversial points, he lays down as principles some of those very points whence the greatest schisms of the christian church have originated. Indeed without going farther, the passage we have marked in our quotation from his preface, is a sufficient proof of this, in which he asserts that the true religion is exclusively confined to the British Islands. In entering on this part of the subject, it must be premised that we do not intend to give an opinion on any of the points at issue, but merely to shew by them that the author has at the very commencement deviated from that course which he had traced out for himself.

In the second page we find these words. "For this end he emptied himself of his glory, and tabernacled in the flesh," evidently assuming the divinity of Christ, as if of universal acceptation, which we know is by no means the fact. In another place the following passage occurs;

"Let us suppose that this awful day is come. The Son of Man appears in his glory: The Heavens melt like wax at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth: the day of vengeance is come, and the glory of our God: The judgment is set and the books are opened. You too are arraigned at the bar: the law is read, and its dreadful anathema, "Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things written in the book of the law to do them;" *where now are your pleas of merit?* alas! all fled—*who will produce his works of supererogation?* Conscience, now a swift witness, exposes the cheat. Demerit, all demerit appears to belong to humanity; and the scrutinizing eye of man, as well as of God, exposes every vain plea of human righteousness.

What have I said? is there not a human righteousness? there is. *Human* yet *complete*. *Complete*, because *divine*. Humanity and Deity connected, constituting a Righteousness which is our only security, a Righteousness acceptable, because ordained of God, the sinner's plea.

In this passage the doctrine of supererogation and its necessary consequence the meritoriousness of our actions considered in themselves, is openly controverted. Yet to this doctrine one great division of the christian church rigidly adheres. This teacher's mode of preaching unity is like that now in fashion in the political world, "think as you please, provided you think with the establishment."

We have dwelt longer on this sermon than its appearance seemed to require, because it is not to be considered as a detached essay, but as the commencement of a larger treatise. We have been circumstantial in pointing out an inconsistency, because it must have pervaded the whole volume. The author has departed from his professions; he has erred; his error however is not to be attributed to a design to mislead, but to a self confidence too commonly indulged, which leads us to think our own opinions not only right but exclusive. He ought to have considered that every one claims the same privilege, and that the pertinacious assertion of disputed opinions, instead of inducing assent must confirm opposition, and even force it into obstinacy.

To a reader who thinks with the author, we doubt not the sermon may convey some useful reflections.

Some grammatical and idiomatical inaccuracies occur, which might have escaped observation, had not the author introduced himself in the secondary character of a writer on English Grammar. In two places we find the verb "to impress," used in a neuter sense.

We have also noticed the following passages.

"Which (pleasures) are succeeded by the most bitter consequences, and *(are)* the precursors of our ruin."

"They might expect *a* similar treatment."

These are trivial errors: but we certainly have a right to say to the physician, "Heal thyself."

Woman: or Ida of Athens, by Miss Owenson, 4 vols. 12mo. p.p. 979. Longman, Hurst, and Rees, London, 1809.

Continued from P. 143, No. VII.

THE capture of Osmyn gives our heroine another opportunity of displaying herself. She is described as wandering through the scene of carnage to discover his body; at length on discovering the truth, she again goes to the Acropolis (Anglice, the citadel) to plead in his favour.—But her application now is not equally successful. She is brought to the Aga, and induced by the hopes of saving Osmyn from the tortures with which he is threatened to consent to marry his persecutor. But that very night the Aga's daughter, who was in love with Osmyn contrives his escape, and flies with him to Russia. Ida escapes to her father's, and there receives the intelligence that her hated spouse is no more, having been put to death by the suspicious government which he served.

A new character now appears, and gives rise to a train of incidents which form in our opinion the only entertaining part of these volumes; yet it is a hazardous pleasure. The style and sentiments are of that enervating, voluptuous tendency, which excite emotions the most dangerous. The pleader in the cause of virtue, for such is the character to which we conceive Miss Owenson wished to attain, has assumed the air and habiliments of the most dangerous auxiliary of vice.

An Englishman resident at Naples, a professed sensualist, of the most refined order, goes to Athens in quest of those pleasures which variety alone can furnish to the votary of the senses. In the summary description of character, Miss Owenson has merit; although she constantly fails in its developement, as it incidentally displays itself through the circumstances of the narration. The present personage may serve as an example of her talent.

"The Englishman was born of the younger branch of an illustrious family. He was impressed with an extravagant sense of the value of rank, because rank in the early part of his life had been his sole possession; ardent from nature, luxurious by education, he pursued the path to opulence merely as the medium by which pleasure (in its common acceptation) was to be obtained; he pursued it like a man of elevated notions in political career, and pursued it with a success no less the result of his talents than of his fortune. The evil chances of education had given him many faults, but they had also left him many virtues; the leading traits of excellence which illuminated his character were all his own; and the leading vice which shadowed its brightness, owed existence to the influence of woman. Of an ardent, impetuous, and affectionate character; at an age when the receptive power of men are so eager for impression, and so fatally capable of rendering that impression decisive, his heart had been first touched, his passions had been first awakened, by one who with more art than beauty, more ability than principle, and more passion than sentiment, charmed his imagination by her brilliancy, his self-love by her ardour, and deceived his hopes and betrayed his confidence, by that train of conduct, which depraved feeling and vitiated habits inevitably produce in woman.

"With a general and passionate admiration, united to a total want of esteem for women, his opinion of the sex was founded on the first impression given him by an individual: he had therefore never married, and never intended to marry. He laughed at the man who voluntarily threw his honour into the keeping of a being, who (drawing the inference from his own experience) he believed so seldom capable of preserving her own; he laughed at the man who voluntarily hung a chain over his pleasres, and devoted himself to anxiety at home,

while enjoyment solicited his acceptance abroad: he believed that the woman whom prudence would induce him to marry, his taste would impel him to decline; and that her whom he would adore as a mistress, he could never depend on as a wife.

He was now no longer young; and though he had seen much of the world, though he too generally took his sentiments from the high, but frequently false tone of the circle in which he lived, yet something of the untarnished gloss of nature still remained. The ardent feelings of his being, frequently deposed the factitious principles of his character; and the warm impulse of a moment sometimes overthrew the artful system of a year. Although he had observed much, he had reflected, he had combined but little; and his life, gay and polished as his manners, while it pointed his wit, while it sharpened his shrewdness, rendered him more alive to a foible than observant of a quality, more attracted by the living manners as they rose, than attentive to the human passions as they unfolded themselves, under the pressure and influence of human wants."

An entire volume is occupied in relating the rise and progress of his acquaintance with Ida, whom he attempts to seduce; but though he caught her imagination, which is described as very inflammable, he failed in interesting her heart, and returns baffled and disappointed to England.

The remainder of the tale may be summed up in a few words. By one of these violent exertions of authority too common in despotic governments, Ida's father is forced to quit Athens with his family; they escape to England. On their arrival there they find that their banker has failed. They are of course reduced to extreme distress, from which they are at length relieved by the Englishman, to whose house Ida in a manner almost miraculous to any one but a heroine of a novel, had strayed while looking for relief for her father who was dying in prison. He afterwards maintains Ida and her young brothers, at his own expense. In this place we must stop to comment upon an inconsistency of character. A man, versed as the Englishman is described to be in the female character, would never have had recourse to the gross expedient of making himself the open protector of a high-spirited woman, whose heart he had failed to conquer, and whose eyes were open to his designs. So many ways would have presented themselves of relieving her distresses in a more delicate manner, which she would not have declined, because ignorant of their tendency, and which when their author was discovered, would have laid her under a weight of obligation almost impossible to be shaken off from the manner in which it was conferred, that we are surprized at the negligence or want of invention in the author, in not having recourse to them. As she tells the story, Ida very naturally rejects the proffered bounty, is again reduced into the greatest distress and again relieved by the interference of a relation who unexpectedly appears in England. She is now restored to rank and opulence. The Englishman abjures his former infidelity of woman, and proposes marriage; his offers are again rejected. Osmyn now appears under the character of a Russian Officer, and after an eclaircissement which commences at a masquerade, that amusement so happily invented for the relief of distressed writers of romance, she marries the object of her first attachment and settles with him in Russia.

The style of this work is very defective, abounding in a superfluity of words, which instead of contributing to accuracy or ornament, obscures the sentiment by distracting the mind. An excessive affectation, displaying itself in forced sentiments and distorted expressions, pervades the whole. To understand a modern novel, an accurate knowledge of the language in which it is written is insufficient; French, Italian and Spanish are indispensable. Miss Owenson, determined to leave all competitors behind, goes still farther. To read Ida, we must understand Greek; though in some cases she is so complaisant to the ignorance of her fair readers, as to tack the explanation to the tail of the learned word, so that a page of her book might sometimes

be mistaken for a new invented vocabulary, or a misplaced column of *spelling and explaining*. For instance, take the following description of Ida's dress.

"Her drapery pure and light as drifted snow, resembled in its folds that of the priestesses who form the procession in the metopes of the temple of Minerva; a thousand shining jetty curls were drawn through the antient cekriphale *or golden net* that enclosed her luxuriant hair, the simple anadema bound *its wreath* across her snowy forehead, and the Astropeplon, *or embroidered scarf*, caressed her neck and shoulders, or floated lightly on the passing gale: she touched at intervals the cythara on which she leaned, and blushed, and smiled, and glowed, in all the *conscious triumph* of youth, of beauty and inspiring love."

A variety of singular expressions may also be pointed out.

"*Luxuriated* in that enjoyment, which Ionian gales might still bestow,"—— "The admiration he excited became at once the reward and *stimulation* of his talents,"—— "Nor canst thou ever *obliviate*."——

We also find the word which an uninstructed Englishman would call *sensual*, in one place written *sensuous*, and in another, no doubt for the sake of variety *sensurous*.

But what we think principally exceptionable, is the incorrect notions of religion and morality interspersed through these pages.

"Nature," says Miss Owenson, in the character of Ida's preceptor; "nature has only given us desires, whose gratification is enjoyment; but society in its gradual estrangement from her dictates, engenders passsions which become the scourge of those who cherish them; man, naturally beneficent, becomes a tyrant—man, naturally free, becomes a slave; and religion, which is of nature, conveyed through the senses to the soul, awakening its gratitude, and commanding its adoration, becomes an incomprehensible dogma, propagated by cruelty and fanaticism, disfigured by human invention on every side, breaking the tye of human sympathy, scattering discord and disorder through nations, and imposing its belief by eternal terrors. In every religion may be traced the arrogant faith of its own infallibility, and in the breast of every fanatic sectarian is established a secret inquisition by which the opinion of others is tried and condemned. On every side virtue and felicity are of nature; on every side vice and misery are of man.

This is the genuine doctrine of the School of Bridgetuna Botherum. We shall add but one more.

"Love is an involuntary affection; it resists the law of volition, and deprives the mind of that free agency which distinguishes it under the influence of other passions. *Every one loves as long as he can;* but the sentiment is not to be commanded into existence, nor is the period of its duration to be defined. It argues a profound ignorance of human nature, to expect eternal fidelity in a lover; and the woman who lives only to lament an inconstant, mistakes weakness and want of pride and of reflection for sensibility and virtue."

These words are the echo of Euphrosyne in Comus.

> "All I ask of mortal man,
> Is to love me while he can."

Let us now see what is adduced to palliate the defects of this work. We are told in the preface that the author "has been *necessitated* to compose with great rapidity," (we make no doubt of the rapidity of the composition, every page bears disgraceful proofs of it, but why necessitated we are not told) that "her little works have been always printed from an illegible manuscript in one country, while she was the resident of another; that she has written almost as many volumes as she has years; and that she is at once indolent and volatile in her literary character." We cannot, however, see the weight of these apologies. That the printing has been very carelessly supervised, these are sufficient proofs; were it otherwise, we should not have seen the sun at one time setting to the *east* of Athens, *in the Euxine*, instead of to the *west*, in the *Gulph of Engia*. Nor would we have seen a pile of ruins illuminated at midnight by the rays of the *morn* (the moon.) But we see no reason why the book was not printed where the author could

have had an opportunity of preparing it for the public eye. We would recommend it to this young lady, for by her own mode of calculation, we guess her to be about seventeen, instead of pleading one fault in palliation of another, or setting up her volumes as mile-stones to mark her progress thro' life, either to relinquish the profession of author altogether, or subject her imagination to the discipline of meditation and reflection, which alone can qualify her for the honourable but arduous task of instructing her sex, by setting before them a model of WOMAN for their imitation. Q.

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MONTHLY RETROSPECT OF POLITICS.

DURING the course of this month the scene of politics has been totally changed. Spain, which had so long attracted the observation of Europe, is now forgotten, or only considered as the scene of a complicated mixture of glory and disgrace; glory to the hands that acted, disgrace on the heads that conceived the project of its liberation from a foreign yoke, to replace it under the torporific influence of its former despotism. A power already humbled and supposed to be prostrate at the feet of Bona-

parte, is said to be preparing to lay claim to its former high rank among nations; while scenes in which we are more immediately interested call our attention forcibly nearer home. As to the first mentioned of these countries, the vital spark of effectual resistance seems to have been extinguished by the embarkation of the British Army, and the unequal contest still partially maintained against the conqueror, is more the result of blind despair than consistent well concerted resistance. Did any hope remain, that Spain by its internal resources could extirpate the extrinsic evil which has penetrated into its vitals, the fate of Saragosa must dissipate that shadow of consolation. This city, after an obstinate contest against the concentrated forces of the French, after maintaining itself against the united efforts of famine, fire, and the sword, with a courage deserving of a better support, has at length been compelled to capitulate. Twenty thousand of its defenders are said to have perished, and nearly the same number to have surrendered, with a choice of engaging in the service of their new sovereign, or being carried as prisoners of war into France; Palafox is said to have died either of wounds, or of fatigue, and Bonaparte is thus freed from the most pertinacious of his adversaries. Romana, and the Duke del Infantado, it is reported, are not only able to hold out, but have commenced offensive operations, at the head of numerous bodies of Spaniards. But English credulity has been so often gulled with these bombastic statements of mock-musters, and paper levies, that little stress can be laid on such reports. In Cadiz the spirit of resistance still exists. Situate at the remotest extremity of Spain, under the more immediate protection of the English, whose marine affords the opportunity of throwing in supplies, and holds out the prospect of ultimate safety to the garrison in case of extremities; it is not surprising that it should be the focus in which all the dispersed rays of opposition should concentrate.

But the strongest proof of the complete subjugation of this country, is the departure of Bonaparte and the greater part of his troops. He is not apt to leave his work half done.—The desultory warfare still maintained by unconnected parties of the Spaniards, seem to be considered by him as the agitation of the seas after a storm, which requires only time to subside. When in the plenitude of his power he poured his hosts over the Pyrenees, and swept away every trace of opposition as he advanced, he did not trust solely to that mighty military machine whose operations he directed. He appears to have put in action springs more secret, but not less effectual. He divided the people from the nobility; and by an extraordinary political maincœuvre, the most absolute monarch of the continent, who invaded the country with the avowed intention of forcing a sovereign on the people in opposition to the rights of the hereditary ruler and their own choice, appeared as the assertor of the civil and religious liberties of the people, while their ally, though in possession of these blessings, was the supporter of the old system of monarchial and monastic tyranny. Neither do the Spanish Nobility appear to have been proof against the temptation to which the insidious policy of their enemy exposed them. Perhaps during their short lived government they discerned that their darling privileges were about to be encroached on by those they had hitherto held in subjection; that the people conscious of their power, would claim their rights, and they therefore preferred to be petty despots at home beneath a foreign master, than be the independent rulers of a free people.

Whatever may be the general opinion respecting the Spanish peninsula, it is certain that the English ministry do not despair. Undismayed by former misfortunes, a formidable armament is again fitting out for the assistance of our new allies. It is to be hoped that their plan of operations will be better digested, and that the flower of these nations will not again be sent out on what is vulgarly called "a man of war's cruise," an expedition without design or destination. It is indeed but a bad omen of future success, that the whole of the former expedition lies still involved in

mystery; the ministry carefully avoid giving a full and explicit account of the whole affair; not even the returns of the losses suffered have as yet been published; and we are left to judge of the magnitude of these from the whispers of individuals, and the magnified reports of common fame. Yet even from these something may be collected, sufficient to indicate the probable result of the projected equipment, if directed by the same men, and on the same principles, or rather the same want of principles, which terminated in the failure of the former. For the employment of the British force under Sir J. Moore, three plans were proposed, one by Sir H. Dalrymple, another by Sir J. Moore, and another by the Supreme Junta. According to the first, the troops were to act in Biscay, forming as it were the left wing of a great army opposed to the French at the foot of the Pyrenees, and supported in the van by garrisons, strong forts, and new native levies. By the second, the South of Spain was to be the scene of action, and Seville, Grenada, and Cadiz, the principal *points d'appui* for our troops. In the third, it was proposed to send a british force to Catalonia. The British ministry adopted none of these: but by sending our force into the heart of Leon, while the Spanish forces acted in two unconnected bodies in different parts under Blake and Castanos, allowed the enemy to pursue his usual tactic of defeating each body in detail. *Divide et Impera* is the Machiavelian maxim for conquest. We have adopted it; but not altogether; we choose the former part and leave the latter to our enemy: we divide and they conquer.

GERMANY is again about to assume the appearance it had in all the former wars of Europe, that of being the great centre of action. A fresh rupture between Austria and France is the signal for another great continental convulsion. The secret causes of this change in the sentiments of the former of these powers, are still unknown, nor has it yet been declared whether she takes the field as aggressor, or to prevent the encroachment of the latter. A short retrospection of past events may serve to throw some light on this subject. At the time of the Spanish insurrection, Austria had manifested a hostile disposition, or at least prepared to encrease and strengthen her means of defence. These proceedings excited the suspicions of the French ruler, and he immediately took steps to counteract any bad effects which might result from her hostility at a time that his power seemed to totter by the convulsions in the west. He wished to confirm his connections with the Emperor of Russia. The meeting at Erfurth took place; the result of which was such as to remove any apprehensions which he might have been under from Austria. He was now empowered to direct all his efforts against his new enemy. The consequence was, the immediate dissipation of the Spanish armies, the expulsion of the English, and the subjugation of the western peninsula. Having accomplished this object as far as he thought consistent with the employment of his forces, he would naturally wish to free himself from any apprehensions of hostility from Austria, and to deprive that power of the means of retarding his designs in any other part to which he may be hereafter obliged to turn his arms. Hence it appears that Austria is forced into this war for her own preservation. It is almost impossible that she would have willingly lain dormant during the late great struggle, when in possession of means to create such a powerful diversion in favour of the enemies of Bonaparte, and should now voluntarily engage in a single-handed contest, against a power whom its late triumphs have swelled up to a gigantic magnitude. Great as is the versatile imbecility of continental councils, powerful as is the influence of British gold, such a proceeding would argue a degree of obstinate stolidity inexplicable even on those motives. The die however is cast; war is already declared, and it now only remains to consider what resources the devoted power has to skreen itself from this dreadful scourge, this besom of detruction which has swept so many empires from the face of the earth. We have heard but of one. The Archduke—in his name, seem to centre all the means of defence. Of men, indeed there are always sufficient for slaughter in Germany; but from what store are the sinews

of war to be furnished? an exhausted treasury, and unfurnished arsenals; a dejected population; and not a single ally: for on Great Britain she can surely reckon little after the occurrences in Spain. The prospect affords but little hope to the friends of the old order of things, nor can much better be hoped for from the new. Much must depend on the part taken by Russia. She is such a gainer by the alliance with France, that a change in her political relations is scarcely to be expected. Our unfortunate Ally the king of Sweden, after being deprived of all the eastern part of his dominions, is forced to throw himself into the arms of his inveterate enemy: it is even reported that a serious insurrection of the people has occurred in that country. Irritated by the war into which they have been forced for causes in which the country had so little share, and could derive nothing but calamity and disgrace, they wish to force their king to other measures, and even to reclaim those rights of which they had been deprived by his predecessor. Other accounts describe this rising as of a local nature, and say that it has already been suppressed.

FRANCE, however, does not confine herself to continental operations. Her movements towards the east have excited a considerable degree of alarm and agitation in India. It has been said that after the peace of Tilsit a large body of the French army had directed its course through the southern provinces of Asiatic Russia, with a view of invading our territories in that quarter. Of this nothing farther has been heard. But it is certain that every means are used to establish a friendly intercourse between France and Persia, evidently with the intention of facilitating the views now apprehended; and a considerable degree of alarm and agitation has exhibited itself in the northern provinces of India. While England retains the command of the sea, the permanent conquest of that extensive country can never be accomplished by an insulated force, whose strength incessantly crumbling away by the nature of the climate, can be recruited but slowly and uncertainly, by the circuitous course necessary to be taken by land. But enough may be done to throw the company's affairs into great confusion, and to accumulate on them an increase of expenditure, which in addition to the deprivation of the customary taxes from those provinces that will be the seat of war, will be suddenly felt in the present exhausted state of their revenue.

The favourable turn which the politics of TURKEY have taken may be some check on the ambitious views of the French on this side. A treaty of alliance has been effected with the new government through the agency of Mr. Adair, whose diplomatic talents seem to have been universally admired, in effecting it. We know not what dependance can be placed on the fluctuating councils of this distracted empire, governed as it is by an ignorant and lawless soldiery; nor is it probable that the assistance of the English will be of much avail, if the Emperor of Russia, freed from a war in the north, seriously turns his thoughts to its dismemberment. In such a case the new formed alliance will only contribute to precipitate its fall by offering an excuse to the combined masters of the Continent to invade a nation which has deserted them and formed an alliance with their most formidable enemy.

The remains of the French fleet also, which has so long continued in port, has at length ventured to shew itself. A squadron of eleven ships of the line with some frigates eluding the vigilance of the British admiral, lately quitted Brest, with the supposed intention of raising the blockade of L'Orient. Their destination however was soon discovered, and they did not effect their escape into a place of security without loss. Three of their frigates and one line of battle ship were run ashore and destroyed, with little loss on our side. It has been since discovered that another squadron of six sail of the line have about the same time sailed from L'Orient in a southerly direction. Hopes were for some time entertained that they had been intercepted by Admiral Duckworth: these however have been disappointed. Their object must be of great importance, as they passed a British convoy without even attempting any captures. It is supposed their destination is for the Spanish settlements

of South America, and that they carry thither the *ci-devant* royal family of Spain.

Here are grounds for fresh political speculations. If such be the object, and that it must be of the first consequence, the circumstances of the expedition leave little room to doubt, we cannot but think that another enemy is about to be raised against us, under the appearance of our present ally. It was the original plan of Bonaparte to force the Spanish court into a voluntary exile into their trans-Atlantic dominions. Such a step would not only produce an apparent abdication of that monarch, but would afford an excuse for placing the crown on a new head, and establishing another branch of his family in one of the most powerful dependencies of his new-formed dynasty. The separation of the colonies from the mother country, which would be the inevitable result of such procedure, by weakening each, would facilitate his designs against both. When once master of old Spain, he was sensible that he had the support of two powerful parties in the new seat of government; the one what is commonly called the French party, the other those, whose interests would lead them to wish for a re-union of the disorganised parts under a new head, rather than a perpetual banishment from the land of their nativity, under their ancient sovereign.

The proceedings in Madrid previous to the insurrection, prevented this from being attended with the same success as attended a similar attempt in Portugal, and led to the subsequent scene of slaughter and misery in which we have borne too large a part. The present transportation of the king, environed, as he must be, by a band of satellites, the private agents and emissaries of France, cannot fail to give support to the French party already existing under Liniers, and to confirm the animosities against the English, which arising from a long continued course of religious and national hatred has been aggravated to the highest degree, by the late attempt upon Buenos Ayres. This, it must be confessed, is but conjecture, resting however on well-founded probabilities, on the well known character of Bonaparte, and on that of the nation now our ally, which name will be retained so long, and no longer, than is suitable to their own self interest.

The only foreign occurrence relative to England, is the taking of the French West India Island of Martinique. Late accounts state that the island has surrendered, with the exception of a single fort, where the French have collected all their forces, and seem determined to make a final stand. Of its speedy reduction little doubt is entertained.

With respect to internal occurrences, the great cause which engaged, during the last month, the undivided attention of the nation is at length decided; decided in a manner such as every friend to his country could have wished. It is the calm and dignified triumph of reason and justice over power, abuse and corruption. It is singular to trace out the unexpected means by which this transaction has been completely unravelled. To say nothing of the cause from which it originated, the disgraceful connection of a prince of the blood with a professed wanton, and the still more disgraceful refusal to pay the hire of her guilty services, though even here we may find something to affect a material part of the evidence *voluntarily* presented to the parliament, for perhaps it is not universally known in this country, that in the marriage contract as performed according to the rites of the church of England, the man promises to the woman, not indeed *on the honour of a prince* but on the *oath of a christian*, "to love her, comfort her, honour and keep her in sickness and in health, and *forsaking all other*, keep only unto her, so long as they both shall live," setting this aside, let us take a summary survey of the inquiry.

A private country gentleman unknown to, and unsupported by any party, advances to charge the king's son, the commander in chief of all the British army, with corruption in the exercise of his official duties, and openly states the several cases which have come to his knowledge. An universal emotion is excited; the servants of the crown, and the friends of the Duke, eagerly call for investigation; already they exult in anticipated triumph, and enjoy the prospect of

ruin and disgrace about to fall on the accuser's head. The independent members are cautious and doubtful. They are conscious that inquiry is necessary, yet fearful of success against such odds. Mr. Wardle stands almost alone, browbeaten, threatened and derided. He is told that his adversary stands high in the opinion of the people and the Army; it is hinted that he is the dupe of a conspiracy formed against the *character* of the house of Brunswick; it is almost insinuated that he is one of the party. He is openly told, that infamy must attach somewhere—The tongue that spoke these words did not understand the awful portent it uttered. The inquiry is invited, forced on. One of the few who really wish for investigation proposes that the witnesses should be examined on oath. This is a demand too reasonable to be refused—Yet compliance might be dangerous—A noble lord, too well known to this country, thinks the emergency worthy of his interference. Like Belial, "prepared to perplex maturest counsels" he rises —

> I should be much for *solemn oaths*, O Peers,
> As not behind in hate, *but that I find*—

This BUT decides the question, and the witnesses are to answer on their *honour*. Yet this mode of inquiry forced on the house by the friends and advocates of the accused party, for the ministerial party, though judges, made no secret of their bias, has led to discoveries which otherwise might have still remained unveiled, had the rigid and awful bond of an oath checked that freedom of answer and desultory mode of examination which then would have been inadmissible. A woman is brought forward; she is harassed by every kind of mental torture that the ingenuity of thorough-paced legal inquisitors, and keen hunters after contradictory evidence can invent. What is the consequence? does she invalidate her own testimony? no; but in self defence, in vindication of her own veracity, she reluctantly produces papers, proved to be genuine, directly contradicting the evidence of men high in office, and the solemn word of honour of a prince. The witnesses for the accused force themselves on the house. Does their evidence acquit their friend? On the contrary one of them is convicted of prevarication. To conclude, after a debate protracted to a length almost unprecedented, the house divided on the question, "whether in consequence of a system of corruption and undue influence having been carrried on in the army, of which it is not said that the Duke of York had any knowledge, it was prudent to continue him in the command of the army." The numbers for the motion, were 199, against it, 294, leaving a majority in favour of the Duke, or of the Ministers, for it is indifferent, of 95. But it must be observed that the Minority were independent country gentlemen: of what the majority was composed, it is needless to mention. Other propositions were then made in order to decide on the quantum of royal guilt or innocence, when the Duke cut the knot which his friends could not untie, by resigning his situation: his resignation was accepted, and in this compromise all parties acquiesced. On considering these proceedings, the details of which would occupy a book larger than one of our volumes, every unprejudiced mind must reflect on the excellency of our Constitution which brings the most exalted offender before the bar of Justice; and on the hands to which that constitution is entrusted, which can so skillfully avert the arm of Justice when uplifted. Within these three years, we have seen three courts of honour held; their efficacy will not excite a very general wish for their more general establishment. In the first was tried military peculation, and the defendant was acquitted *upon the honour* of a NOBLEMAN: in the second, military disability, and the defendant was cleared *upon the honour* of an OFFICER, in the third, military corruption, and the defendant cleared himself *upon the honour* of a PRINCE. The letter of the infatuated Charles, to his too credulous friend and minister, Strafford, may teach posterity the credit due to the word of a King; it remains still to calculate, in comparing the weight of the two pledges, how much the superior solemnity in the present case, can over

balance the dignity of the character in the former.

The political relations of America with Britain have been hitherto unnoticed because they principally affect this country. The Embargo may impoverish England, but it must starve Ireland. Our hopes were highly raised a few days ago, from a communication said to be officially delivered by Mr. Foster to the Gentlemen of the Linen trade of Ireland, that the Embargo was removed, thus holding out a flattering prospect of a sufficiency of flax for the employment of our Northern population, for the next year. What then was our disappointment to find that this was but the first half of a fact, whose occurrence was long since expected, but whose operation could have little effect on our present difficulties, that the Embargo was removed to make room for the non-intercourse act, which equally with the former, prevents our communication with America, during the operation of the Orders in Council, but leaves the trade of their country open to neutrals. The cause of such a mutilated report we know not at present, and must suspend our curiosity, till next month's changes can explain it.

PUBLIC OCCURRENCES.

IRISH.

ULSTER.

PETITION FROM BANBRIDGE, &c.

THE following petition deserves a place in the pages of the Belfast Magazine, as it will shew that public spirit, though extinct among some classes of the community, still prevails among others, who venture to come forward to state their grievances to the legislature in manly terms. The direct object of the petition is happily obtained by the defeat of the plan of allowing distillation from grain in Ireland. But the other subject, the want of the flaxseed, to which they incidentally, though spiritedly alluded, still remains to threaten us with approaching calamity.

"To the Honorable the house of Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled.

The humble petition of the principal inhabitants of the town of Banbridge and the neighbouring parishes of Seapatrick, Tullylish, Donoughcloney, Aghaderg, and Magharally, in the County of Down,

Sheweth,

That your petitioners have heard with unfeigned concern of the intention expressed by his Majesty's ministers to insert a clause in the corn distillery bill, now before your honorable house, to remove the existing prohibition of the distillation from grain in Ireland, inasmuch as they conceive, that the said intended clause, if enacted, must be highly injurious in its effects, to the interests of this part of the united Kingdom.

Your petitioners beg leave to state that the produce of the last grain crop in Ireland, has been by no means so abundant, as has been represented, that the prices of provisions are higher now, than they were when the prohibition took place, nay, higher than it is recollected, they have ever been, at this season of the year in Ireland, with the single exception of the distressful spring of 1801. That these prices have lately encreased from the supposed probability, that the prohibition may be discontinued, and moreover that the great article of food in Ireland, potatoes, are now selling in the markets far beyond the average rate of common years.

Considering, too, that all the articles of prime necessity, in our manufactures and trades, are dear and scarce, above all, *that the supply of flax for the ensuing year is such as to excite the strongest apprehension, that a total stagnation may take place in our staple manufacture, by which hundreds of thousands of our population are enabled to procure their daily food*, which they can with difficulty obtain for their families, at the present rates of the markets, your petitioners are induced most earnestly to implore that your honorable house may pause, and weighing the calamitous results likely to arise from its enactment, prevent the introduction of the clause, removing the prohibition of the distillation from grain in Ireland, into the

aforesaid bill. If the existing laws against illicit distillation have been hitherto found insufficient to check that baneful evil, your petitioners have every confidence, that in the wisdom of parliament, means can be devised of effectually crushing a practice, which surely ought not to be beyond the control of a powerful, vigilant and energetic government."

On Wednesday last, a ploughing match was decided in a field of Mr. Samuel Moorhead's, at Ballynahinch, for a wager on who should make the best ploughing. The parties were, Mr. John Graham, Mr. John M'Clelland, Mr. Samuel Moorhead, and Mr. Richard M'Clelland, all respectable farmers of that neighbourhood. Each appeared on the ground with their horses, plough, and tacklings, in excellent order; and in two hours time ploughed half a rood of lea land that had been previously laid off for each of them, in so masterly a manner as to give entire satisfaction to a large concourse of neighbourindg farmers, who had assembled to witness the laudable contest.

The prize was adjudged to Mr. John Graham, for the superior neatness of his furrows; and the other candidates had also the merit of doing theirs so well, as to make it difficult for judges to determine.

As such trials of skill would be an excellent mode of disseminating the knowledge acquired by proficients in this important branch; it would be highly useful to this great agricultural country, should they become more frequent.

On Monday three women, of the names of Cunningham, Charters, and Farrel, went into a shop in High-street, soliciting money to bury Cunningham's sister, who they said had died in the afternoon. A gentleman who belongs to the Strangers' Friend Society, being then in the shop, insisted to go with them to where the corpse lay, and which they said was in the Plantation. When near that place, however, they confessed they had merely made up the story to raise some money, and refused to go farther with him. Such impostors deserve exemplary punishment.

ANTRIM....*Married*....Mr J. Brown, of Ballycarl, to Miss Hughes of Jordanstown. The Rev. C. H. Crookshank, to Mis Harriet Jones, of Moneyglass. Mr. F. Lepper, to Miss Bryson, both of Belfast. Mr. J. Gordon, of Belfast, to Miss Holmes, daughter of the Rev. W. Holmes, of Island Magee.

Died....At Belfast, Mr. W. Gordon. Aged 16, Mr. J. Kelso. Suddenly in the 23d, year of her age, Miss M. Donaldson. The Rev. S. Patton, late Minister of the dissenting congregation of Moneyrea. In Belfast, on the 7th ult. F. M'Evoy, printer.

ARMAGH....*Married*....Mr. J. Campbell, of Keady, to Miss Shields, of Caryclean.

TYRONE....*Married*....A. Austin, esq. of Miltown, to Miss E. Pemberton of Dublin.

DONEGAL....*Married*...E. Harrison, esq. of Buncrana, to Miss I. Darby.

Died....At Dundrum, Miss E. Blackwell, of Belfast.

LEINSTER.

The following melancholy accident occurred a few days since in the vicinity of Camolin, in the county of Wexford;—Edward Flinn, stucco-man, having left his lodgings early on Wednesday morning, in order to finish some work for a gentleman in the neighbourhood, was found apparently dead on the side of the road about 11 o'clock same day. The body was buried the following evening.—The circumstances of sudden death, and hasty interment, having a suspicious appearance, a magistrate ordered the corpse to be taken up; when it was found he had turned in the coffin and bled profusely out of the mouth and nose. From the above circumstances it appears the man had been buried alive.

MEATH....*Married*....R. M'Guire, esq. of New Grange, to Miss R. Chester of Drogheda.

DUBLIN.....*Married*...In Eccles-street, Mr. J. Jackson, to Miss Sarah M'Creight, Walkenshaw's-grove, Co. Armagh.

Died....Edward Lysaght, esq. barrister at law; a gentleman well known for his convivial talents and literary acquirements: a short time before his death he was appointed one of the Justices of Police for the city of Dublin, with a salary of 500*l.* per annum. He did not hold this situation long enough to ensure a provision for his widow and family; a subscription has however been generously opened by the gentlemen of the law, and upwards of 1000*l.* has been already received for this benevolent purpose. Mr. Thomas M'Donnell, proprietor of the Hibernian Journal. On Saturday night last, at his residence at Hampton, in the County of Dublin, Alexander Hamilton, esq. aged 44, eldest son of the late Hon. Baron Hamilton. By his decease the office of High Sheriff of the County of Dublin has become vacant. Alas! how uncertain is this life! It is scarcely a month since Mr. Hamilton was sworn into the office of sheriff, in the prime of life? His death was occasioned by a fever, taken immediately afterwards, which had such an effect on his nerves and frame as to

precipitate him into an early grave. This gentleman was eminently useful by following the example of his ever-to-be-lamented father, by promoting the internal trade and commerce of his country.—The town of Balbriggan, which was founded by the late Baron Hamilton, furnishes, in its prosperity, an ample proof of the beneficial results of industry, the seeds of which were originally sown by him in the establishment of the cotton manufacture, and have since spread themselves to the amelioration and happiness of thousands. This branch of trade certainly made more rapid advances in this country under the protection and influence of the late Baron Hamilton, than any other individual before or since his time. Mr. Hamilton inherited many other of the good dispositions and amiable qualities of his father. As a representative in the House of Commons, in which he sat from the age of 22, until the dissolution of the Irish Parliament, he was of unshaken integrity, and on the last great question which agitated that House, his patriotism shone conspicuous, for differing in sentiments upon that occasion with his Noble patron, he resigned the representation of Belfast, and with it his lucrative place of Cursitor of the Court of Chancery.

MUNSTER.

A most atrocious and inhuman murder was committed on Monday night the 13th ult. on the Dublin road, about one mile from Kilworth, at a place named Barnvaher, by a man of the name of James Hickey, farmer, who had married a young woman about a year ago, the daughter of an honest, industrious man. On the above monday Hickey left his work to go drink at a public-house near him, kept by one Doran. He did not return home until a late hour at night, and when he did, he desired his unfortunate wife to get up, and to let him in, and get him his supper. His younger brother, who lay in the house, desired her not to stir, but she dreading the anger of a husband who had repeatedly used her ill, got up to let him in, and was about getting his supper, when the villain said he had lost his great coat, and desired his wife to put on her shoes, that she may with him in search of it, with which she eluctantly complied. He first took her to a field, on pretence of looking for the coat, when the innocent woman thought she observed a light like fire, and expressed her apprehensions, but he desired her not to be frightened, it was nothing, though the villain had at that time missed fire at her! He then took her on the road in search of the coat, and proceeded some distance until they came to a deep pool of water, the villain pointed to it, saying it was there he lost it, and dreadful to relate, as the poor woman stooped to look for the coat, he fired a shot at her, and lodged fourteen or fifteen slugs in her arm and side; the wretched woman languished until the following Thursday, and then expired, and to add to the enormity of this unnatural murder, the unfortunate woman was six months pregnant. A Coroner's inquest was held on the body, by Richard Foot, esq. and a verdict was found of wilful murder against James Hickey. The inhuman monster has absconded.

TIPPERARY.....*Married*....Lord Viscount Bernard, son to the Earl of Bandon, to Miss Broddrick, daughter to the Archbishop of Cashel.

CONNAUGHT.

A few days ago, Mr. Allen, of Moneyvey, county of Galway, walked into the park of Mr. French about some business with some of the labourers. The gate keeper, one Holmes, desired him not to go that way; Mr. Allen said he would, and so walked off. Holmes said he would shoot him if he did not turn back, and then ran for his gun in a great fury, with which he followed Mr. Allen, but before he got within shot of him, he was struck dead himself, and buried a day or two after!

BRITISH.

At twelve o'clock on Friday night, a most tremendous fire broke out in the south-west angle of the great quadrangle of Christ-Church College, Oxford, which in a short time consumed the whole of Professor White's apartments, and some adjacent rooms. The fire originated in the rooms of one of the members who was then absent. Dr. White was in such a paralytic state that he was obliged to be carried out of the house; he has lost all his valuable library and original manuscripts. The great hall was with difficulty saved. The flames raged with such vehemence till six o'clock the next morning, that it was with great difficulty the engines could prevent it from spreading. The great reservoir, in the middle of the quadrangle, was soon emptied, and it was some time before a supply of water could be procured. The Oxford volunteers also attended to protect the property. The amount of the property consumed is not yet ascertained: one gentleman lost furniture to the amount of 500*l*. No particular accident has happened, if we except one gentleman, who dislocated his knee in attempting to force a door open. The ruins were in smoke all Saturday, and in the night some flames were again discovered, but the men on guard soon quenched them with one of the engines.

A monstrous sea snake similar to the one lately cast ashore in Orkney, has just

been stranded on the coast of England, and persons properly qualified have been sent from London to examine and preserve this wonderful creature.

Died....The Earl of Orford: he is succeeded by his son Lord Walpole, now Earl of Orford. In London, General Mordaunt, aged 79. The Right Hon. the Dowager Lady Ashburton. Mr. Richard Sterling, Nursery-man, after a long and painful illness, occasioned by smoking a pipe, which caused a cancer in his lip, by not waxing the end before he put it into his mouth.

JERSEY.

St. HILIER, February 27:—"Two seamen, J. Hubert and J. Bertant, natives of the island of Jersey, lately effected their escape from the horrors of a French prison. They had been confined, with several of their countrymen, for many months at Valenciennes. They eluded the vigilance of their guards, with two of their companions, who, from their imprudence in the neighbourhood of Caen, were apprehended, and sent back to their former habitation. Our two adventurers were near six weeks in travelling through the country between Valenciennes and Concale Bay. The greatest part of the journey was performed in the night-time, and in most inclement weather. Having gained the coast, they, after a long and cautious search, discovered a small boat, anchored about a mile from the shore—they waited till the tide had partly ebbed, when, fearful of being detected, if they waited till it was low-water, one of them swam off to the boat, which was without oars or sails; he consequently returned to his ship-mate disheartened and despairing; fortunately they soon afterwards found the oars, which had been carried by the careful fisherman close to his hut, and, though nearly exhausted with famine and fatigue, they arrived in St. Catherine's Bay the evening of the second day after they embarked, having been three days and nights without any kind of sustenance. Their limbs were much swollen, and in some places ulcerated, in consequence of the hardships they had undergone.—They report that, understanding and speaking the language of the country, they in some places, when obliged to beg for food, represented themselves as conscripts who had deserted, and frequently were obliged to confess their real situation.—They assert that they were uniformly relieved to the full extent of the means of the charitable peasants to whom they applied, were often permitted to secret themselves in their cottages in the day-time, and were directed by their generous entertainers, in the safest routes, and where they might successfully apply for assistance. The lower orders in France are represented as being in the most wretched and oppressed condition, and unanimously averse to a continuation of the war; and it is certain that however much Bonaparte may be idolized by the army, he is detested by the people. When an English prisoner of war is detected in attempting to evade the miseries of a French prison, he is confined, sometimes for three or six months, at the pleasure of his gaoler, in a dark and damp dungeon, without bedding of any description, and his existence barely prolonged by a scanty allowance of bad black bread and water, nor is he permitted to have communication with any one but his keepers.

AGRICULTURAL REPORT.

From February 20, *till March* 20, 1809.

SINCE last Report the weather has been extremely favourable for the business of the farm, and much work has been done by the plough, and in some districts a considerable progress made in sowing oats.

The wheat crops continue to look well, and a considerable degree of vegetation appears on the grass grounds, which if not checked by frosts, seem to promise an early supply of grass for the stock of young cattle.

The prices of grain and oatmeal have fallen a good deal since last Report. Potatoes are plenty and cheaper in the markets, the fears of scarcity have now subsided, and we trust it will be found that the crops of last year were not so defective as was apprehended.

COMMERCIAL REPORT.

THERE is cause to congratulate the Public, that the fears of the distillation being permitted from grain in Ireland, as expressed in the last Month's Report, have not been realized. This *job*, for such there is good reason to believe it was, has been rendered abortive. The voice of the People against this measure has been well and publicly expressed. The reader is referred to page 231, for a petition on this subject from the inhabitants of Banbridge and the adjoining parishes, in which the ill

effects of permitting distillation from grain, are detailed in manly terms, while they allude with great propriety to the distressing prospect of the want of Flaxseed. On looking back at the transactions which took place at the meeting of Linen-drapers at Armagh, a comparison of the two dissimilar modes adopted in the two cases, forcibly demands our attention. In the meetings respecting the distilleries, the mode of petitioning the legislature was adopted, and the measure of the man whom the majority of the meeting at Armagh addressed, and whom they attempted to constitute the guardian and tutelary genius of the Linen trade, was defeated. As might have been expected, no substantial relief in the latter case was experienced; but the cause of the grievance, the Orders in Council, remain in full force, without any attempts on his part to have them removed. His palliative measures shall be discussed presently. Good effects however have resulted from the meeting at Armagh. The danger to which we are fast approaching, was pointed out to the Public in the report of the proceedings of that meeting, the accuracy of which has remained uncontradicted and unquestioned, at least as far as appears to the Public. By the exertions of the minority of Linen-drapers the case has been brought before the two Houses of Parliament, and our suffering state alluded to, almost in the very words of "The Considerations." Success did not attend, but it is still consolatory that our case did not pass unstated during the debates on the Orders in Council. It is impossible to admit the validity of the plea, that it was dangerous to expose our situation, and the inconveniences we were likely to sustain from the want of Flaxseed, to the powers with whom these nations are at war, or to the Americans, lest the latter should rise in their demands. All these dangers have been since announced in the official letters to, and from John Foster, and no greater risque attended in letting the truth be known three months ago, than at the present time. But the danger then appeared remote: and though the nature of man is properly defined to be that of a being who "looks before and after," yet distant dangers often pass unheeded; until pressed by immediate danger, we admit our former culpable inattention in not taking timely precautions.

It is extremely doubtful whether the bounty of five shillings per bushel on the first 50,000 bushels of foreign Flaxseed imported from Great Britain into Ireland, between the 8th of the present month and the 8th of the next month, will tend materially to increase our supply of this much-needed article; at least it is allowable to doubt the propriety of that part of the act, which takes the responsibility off the seller, on giving a certificate; and causes a consequent danger of bad seed being more readily imposed on the Public. In the present scarcity it is of the highest importance *that the seed sown should be of the very best quality*, as a defective crop in the small quantity likely to be sown would be highly distressing. The answer of the Chancellor of the Irish Exchequer to the address, attempts to turn attention from the present distress, to a distant future prospect of relief, in raising hereafter our own Flaxseed. The old proverb "live horse and get grass in summer," affords slender consolation in the pinching season of winter, or during the cold blasts of spring. Yet, to promote this measure, the sum of £20,000 has been voted by the House of Commons, to be put under the direction of the Linen Board. Probably few will be willing to risk any part of the ensuing small crop of Flax on an experiment, which must as yet be considered as hazardous, and uncertain; notwithstanding strong hopes may be entertained, that in common years it may succeed. The distribution of this public money will however increase the patronage of the Linen Board, and of its efficient director.

It is not consistent with the plan of this Report to enter further into Parliamentary proceedings, than as far as relates to trade. The notice therefore of the debate in the House of Commons, on the address to relax in the system of the Orders in Council, must be brief. Samuel Whitbread, in a luminous speech, pointed out the pernicious consequences of this measure in strong terms; and thus alludes to its consequences on the state of the Linen and Cotton manufactures:

"If you wish to ascertain the extent of the injury inflicted on this country by these Orders, I call upon you to reflect upon the condition of the extensive town of Manchester, where out of forty-nine thousand persons employed before the issuing of those Orders, a great proportion are thrown out of bread; where of the numerous cotton-mills which were formerly employed, thirty-two are now idle, and six only at work. Cast your eyes to Ireland, and behold the state of its Linen

manufacture for the want of Flaxseed. Whence can it be supplied? Not from America or from the Baltic. And as to the probability of an advantageous intercourse with the Brazils, I am not so sanguine as to expect in the course, not alone of my life, but of many persons in this House younger than myself. But suppose that such advantage should arrive much sooner than I am induced to believe, what, I ask, is to be done for the supply of the passing year, or that which succeeds? But then we shall be told of what has been done by the embargo-breakers. What have they brought to this country? Some cotton wool. But have they brought Flaxseed?—Have they brought turpentine—and many other articles of essential importance to the trade and manufactures of Great Britain? I can see little ground of consolation in this system of embargo-breaking."

Henry Grattan, in glowing and energetic language, alluded to the impolicy of alienating America from these countries, and mentioned the distressing situation of Ireland with regard to Flaxseed.

It is almost needless to add, that the motion for a change in the system of commercial warfare was negatived by a considerable majority.

The present state of public opinion in America receives elucidation from the fact, that the election of the President and Vice-president was carried by a majority of more than two to one in favour of the men who are supposed to be friendly to the measures of Jefferson's administration. This circumstance implies a strong sanction of popular feeling in their favour. The complaints from the News-papers published in some of their sea ports would lead us to suppose, if we gave credit to them, that the general sentiment was adverse to the embargo, and non-intercourse acts. But the cause of this mistake is well explained in the subjoined paragraph extracted from the Morning Chronicle:

"From the connection of this country, almost exclusively, with the commercial towns of America, there has been much mistatement as to the effect of the Embargo on the general interest of the United States. Great detriment has undoubtedly been occasioned to the proprietors of shipping, and to the dealers in produce, but those concerned in the infant manufactures of that country have largely benefited by the measure. We know that some of the articles, supplied hitherto by the labour and ingenuity of the artizans and mechanics of Birmingham, are now manufactured at Philadelphia, at the price at which they were before imported; and in the neighbourhood of that city one thousand additional houses have been lately built, on account of the flourishing condition of the inhabitants, from the extent of their interior trade."

A private letter from New York, dated the 6th ult. and received by the last Packet, the Princess Amelia, confirms the preceding account, by shewing, that notwithstanding the distress in some maritime towns, in which the population is chiefly supported by foreign trade, the current of popular feeling is adverse to the British Orders. "We feel pretty severely on our trade the effects of our pending disputes with the wrangling European powers, and of our embargo in consequence for more than twelve months past, and now a severe winter is productive of much hardship to poor people here. We expect our embargo soon to be removed, but if there is not a previous agreement with England, it is much to be feared a war will be the consequence, which in my opinion, though not in that of many others, will make things still worse. Our political state you will have from our papers; but we have here parties as well as you, and unless you get the papers of both sides you will be misled.—The republican party, or those disposed to resist foreign aggression, are much the strongest."

The sufferings of our transatlantic brethren afford however no compensation for our sufferings. In some cases, like ourselves, some may gain by the war, while the many lose. War, commercial war, not less than other warfare, produces innumerable mutual injuries, and when the account of sufferings is fairly balanced, leaves no reason for either side to rejoice.

"Ah! why will kings forget that they are men,
"And men that they are brethren!"

The price of Flaxseed is not yet fixed—Some American seed was lately sold in Dublin at 18½ guineas per hhd. Before this seed comes into the hands of the sower its price must necessarily be considerably increased. Fifteen guineas per barrel are asked for some Riga seed in Belfast. What a melancholy prospect! Nature supplies us liberally: but the people must pay dearly for the blunders of Statesmen. Such are the effects of Orders in Council!

Exchange during this month in Belfast has mostly rated from 5 to 5½ per cent for guineas, and from 7 to 7¼ for Bank notes. Latterly on the 'Change of Belfast, the mode of having a rate of exchange also for Bank notes, has begun to prevail The discount on notes is at 1½ to 1¾ per cent. Bank notes now form in Belfast the general medium in which the bills are made payable; consequently the demand for guineas is lessening, and the value of them decreasing. It remains yet to trace the effects of an increased supply of paper when the two additional Banks shall commence business.

The Irish administration have been a second time left in a minority in the Imperial Parliament, and the additional duty on malt negatived.

Further discussion has taken place in the House of Commons on the bounty to be granted on raising Irish flax-seed. Both sides generally agree in the propriety of making the experiment, but not without strong censure, from some of the speakers on the effects of the Orders in Council. One member (Horner) denominated them, one of those absurd systems of barbarous warfare, which went as far as possible to drive us back to the barbarism and impolicy, which marked the days of the Stuarts." Sir John Newport gave his sanction to the measure, as hoping it might secure Ireland from being hereafter dependent on other countries for the staple of her principal manufacture; but expressed a wish that care would be taken, *how the sum granted was expended.*

Since the foregoing Report has been drawn up, it appears that the Embargo law in America, has received some alterations. But it is by no means certain how far this alteration may open the American ports so as to give us reason to hope that flax-seed can be received in time for this Spring's sowing. If the non-intercourse act remains in force, the commercial communication between the two countries, must be carried on in a circuitous manner. The proceedings of Congress are yet involved in obscurity, which probably may not be cleared up, till after this Report goes to the press: but let the business terminate as it may, the impolicy of the Orders in Council still remains undiminished, it being a struggle between the two countries, which from its necessities would first be compelled to yield. Nor can any justification be derived from any repeal of the Embargo, the act of a foreign government, for the conduct of the majority at Armagh, who as far as their influence went, were contented to stake the essential interests of their country, on the cast of so precarious a chance.

MEDICAL REPORT.

List of Diseases occurring in the practice of a Physician in Belfast, from February 20, till March 20.

Barometer.....highest	30	40	Thermometer.....highest	47	10
mean	30	0	lowest	32	30
lowest	29	10	mean	43	00

Typhus,	7	Common contagious fever.
Pneumonia,	1	Pleurisy.
Sphacelus,	1	Mortification.
Opthalmia	4	Inflammation of the eyes.
Erysipelas,	1	Rose.
Cynanche trachealis,	1	Croup.
Nephritis,	1	Inflammation of the liver.
Rheumatismus acutus,	2	Acute rheumatism.
Arthrodynia,	1	Chronic rheumatism.
Aphtha,	1	Thrush.
Phthysis Pulmonalis,	1	Consumption.
Asthma,	2	Asthma.
Hydrothorax,	1	Dropsy of the Chest.
Dyspepsia,	2	Indigestion.
Asthenia,	4	Nervous Debility.
Hæmoptysis,	1	Spitting of blood.
Catarrhus,	2	Common cold.
Diarrhœa,	1	Looseness.
Scrophula,	3	Evil.
Herpes,	3	Ringworm, or tetter.
Hæmorrhois,	2	Piles.

Fatuitas post ebrietatem, 1 Idiocy after excessive drunkenness.
Gonorrhœa, *Syphilis*, - } - - - - 9 Venereal disease.
Morbi infantiles,- - - 22 Febrile and bowel complaints of children.

The unexampled mildness and serenity of the present month, although gladdening all nature, and inviting the inhabitants of the vegetable kingdom to burst perhaps prematurely from their *Hibernacula*, has produced little change on the quantity or quality of the diseases common to this country. If the number of cases of fever is not increased, it is not lessened. Drunkenness, at all times destructive of the energies of man, has in the present list given a melancholy instance of its power, whereby a rational and intelligent being, has by its agency alone, been reduced to a state of complete idiocy. A medical friend lately showed the Reporter a drupe, or seed of the hawthorn, or *Mespilus oryacantha* of Linné which a lady had picked out of the cavity of her ear, after being lodged there for upwards of twenty years: she had thrust it in when a very young girl by accident, and it soon produced considerable deafness; sometime ago upon applying to a surgeon, he laughed at the idea of it being there, for he observed it must have rotted long since. Its organization, and hardness when cut into, were not in the least impaired, and the only changes that it had undergone were in its colour, which was black, and that the kernel when applied to a hot iron, gave an odour resembling animal substances. The lady hears much better, since its extraction. It would be very gratifying if any of your Correspondents, who are conversant in vegetable physiology, would favour the public with the reason why the vegetable principle was not developed under the apparently favourable circumstances of warmth and moisture.

NATURALIST'S REPORT.

From February 20, *till March* 30.

'Twas but late, the mourning year
Felt the force of Winter drear,
When from forth his chill abode,
Clad in double night he rode;
Scattering with his blighting breath,
Hail and terror, storms and death.
Now let spring her form unfold,
Rob'd in green and gemm'd with gold.
Lo! she comes, by Zephyrs led
(Blooms unnumber'd round her head)
Over valley, hill, and grove,
Breathing life and health and love.

WESTAL'S DAY IN SPRING.

To mortal man it is not given to lift the veil which conceals the mysteries of nature, and even after the most careful investigation he beholds but in part only, that economy which governs the whole. Our winter birds of passage begin now to leave us, to revisit the Northern Regions, and amidst the wilds of Lapland, Nova Zembla, and the innumberable Isles within the Arctic Circle, to enjoy that peace and security denied them in the more populous countries of the south. But by what peculiar sensations they are enabled to hold their unerring course through the pathless air, amidst darkness and storms, the human mind has not been able to conceive, and man is led to look with humility, "from Nature up to Nature's God."

February 23d, Yew tree (Taxus baccata) and common yellow Crocus (Crocus Mæsiacus Bot. Mag.) flowering. The last did not begin flowering in 1808, until the 29th of February.

24, Alder (Betula Alnus) in flower.

25, Great Blue Titmouse (Parus major) singing. White and purple-striped Crocus (Crocus vernus variety) coming into flower.

26, Mezereon (Daphne Mezereon) flowering. Frogs croaking.

27, Blue Hounds-tongue (Cynoglossum Omphalodes) flowering. Golden crowned Wren (Motacilla Regulus) and Woodlark singing.

28, Yellow Hammer (Emberiza Citrinella) singing.

March 1, Cloth of Gold Crocus (Crocus sulphureus) and Spurge Laurel (Daphne Laureola) flowering.

Black bird (Turdus Merula) singing. Bees beginning to fly about.

4, Purple Dead Nettle (Lamium Purpureum et amplexicaule) and Field Speedwell (Veronica agrestis cœrulea et alba) flowering. Fieldfares (Turdus pilaris) returned.

5, Dog's-tooth Violet (Erythronium Dens Canis) and oriental Borage (Borago Orientalis) flowering. The Erythronium was in flower at the same date last year.

6, Sweet scented Violet (Viola odorata) flowering.

8, Lesser Daffodil (Narcissus minor) flowering.

9, Dandelion (Leontodon Taraxacum) and Pilewort (Ranunculus Ficaria) flowering.

10, Humble Bee (Apis terrestris) and Nettle Butterfly (Papilio urtica) flying about during the day, and the Dor (Scarabœus Stercorarius) in the evening.

Made the second sowing of Peas.

11, Barren Strawberry (Fragaria sterilis) flowering. Made the first setting of Beans.

13, Double Daffodil (Narcissus Pseudo Narcissus) flowering.

16, Primrose (Primula acaulis) flowering.

17, Bulbous Fumitory (Fumaria bulbosa) and Yellow Star of Bethlehem (Ornithogallum luteum) flowering.

19, Larch (Pinus Larix) showing their fertile flowers.

20, Field-fares yet here, the Woodcock, Widgeon, and various species of Ducks which frequent our waters during winter are disappearing.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT.

From 20 February, till March 20.

The present period has been as remarkable for a series of fine weather, as the winter was for severity: the invalid who had languished through the dreary months of winter, finds a ray of hope cheer his drooping spirits, while induced to walk abroad and enjoy in the month of March all the mildness of the long wished for April. And the husbandman rejoices in the fine season, which enables him, with so much ease, to commit to the earth the various seeds.

February 21, 22, 23, ... Cool dark days.
24, ... Some rain during the night.
25, ... Showers during the night. Mild, pleasant day.
26, ... Pleasant dark day.
27, 28, ... Brilliant days.
March, 1st, ... Pleasant.
2, 3, ... Misty.
4, 5, 6, ... Brilliant days.
7, 8, 9. . . . . Gentle Showers.
10, 11, ... Misty mornings, fine bright days.
12, ... Brilliant.
13, 14, 15, 16, 17,
18, 19, 20, . . . Dark, dry days.

The Barometer has seldom been known stationary for such a length of time, for stationary it may almost be called, when the total variation for a month was no more than from 30.2 till 30.4.

The variations of the Thermometer, although greater than the Barometer, have been less than usual for the season. It was on the 6th of March only so low as 30, on the first as high as 46, the rest of the time it was mostly about 44. or 45.

The wind has been Northerly 11; Southerly 10; Westerly 4 times, and Easterly once; of the intermediate points, the South West was the most prevalent.

CELESTIAL PHENOMENA.

FOR APRIL 1809.

On the first, the Moon rises at 46 min. past 8 aft. being a little later than Spica in the Virgin, from which it is distant about 7°; as she mounts the heavens, Mars and Spica to the West, and the Scorpion with Saturn in the east, just risen, make the line from the meridian to the south east by south very conspicuous. At 9 she is 38° 42′ from Antares, and 61° 24′ from Regulus; she passes the meridian the next morning at 35 min. past 1. and sets same morning at 55 min. past 5.

Fifth, The Moon rises at 30 min. past 0, morning, being a little later than the rising of Antares; about 3 when the Scorpion and Saturn are on the meridian, the Moon on one side, and the stars of the Balance, with Mars, and Spica on the other, decorate highly the southern part of the heavens. The Moon passes the meridian at 32 min. past 4, and sets at 42 min. past 7.

Tenth, She rises 48 min. past 3, morning, passes the meridian at 4 min. past 9, and sets at 20 min. past 2, aft.

Fourteenth, On the evening of this day, is new Moon, at which time the Sun will be eclipsed, but invisible to us.

Twentieth, She is advanced beyond the seventh, and twelfth of the Twins, and under, but near her is the 3d of the Twins, she is now at a considerable distance from Venus, and her position within the splendid group around her is considerably changed from what it was last evening; at 9 she is 51° 4′ from Regulus, and 66° 4′ from the Sun.

Twenty-fifth. The Moon passes the meridian at 48 min. past 8, aft. being under the body of the Lion, the first being to the west, and the second to the east of the meridian; Mars and the first of the Virgin will call our attention to the east of her; and to the west, Venus, Aldebaran, and the first of Orion will decorate the lower region; at 9 she is 41° 44′ from Spica, and 49° 59′ from Pollux.

Twenty-ninth, This night at a little past 12, is full Moon, at which time there will be a visible eclipse; the Eclipse begins 42 min. past 10 aft. middle 12 min. past 0 morning, and ends 42 min. past 1, the digits eclipsed are 10° 29′ on the Moon's southern limb.

Mercury is a morning star during the whole of this month, being at his greatest elongation on the 1st, but even on this day the Sun rises so soon after him that he will be seen but by few.

Venus, is an evening star, and during the whole of this month, shines soon after sun set, with great splendour in the west. Her motion is direct through about 15°. On the 1st she is near the Pleiades and her passage through them will excite attention. The Moon passes her on the 17th.

Mars, passes the meridian on the 1st, at 2 min. past 1, morn. and on the 25th at 1 min. past 11 at night, his motion is retrograde through about 12°. The Moon passes him on the 28th.

Jupiter is a morning Star, but too near the Sun to be visible during the greater part of the month. The Moon passes him on the 13th.

Saturn is on the meridian at 47 min. past 3, on the morning of the 1st, and at 14 min. past 2 on the morning of the 25th. The Moon passes him on the 4th.

Herschell is longer above the Horizon than Saturn, and moves with a retrograde motion through about 1¼ degrees. The Moon passes him on the 2d.

The Eclipses of Jupiter's Satellites are not inserted this month, for the reason assigned in our last Number.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

It is our wish to gratify our Correspondents by the insertion of their Pieces, when we find them compatible with the nature of our Miscellany; but justice to ourselves and to the public, compels us sometimes to reject.

The following Pieces do not suit us, and are left with the Publishers to be returned to the writers, if they call for them—A wonderful Vision, communicated by S.; A Romantic Scene; Friendship, an Allegory; Address to Luna; Reflections in a Graveyard; A Footman; H. E; A friend to the Trade of Belfast; The ransomed Captive; Inquirer; Extempore in Defence of Sterne.

The instance of Sagacity in a Dog, from Hamilton's Letters on the Northern coast of the county of Antrim; and the character of Queen Elizabeth, from Wharton's History of English Poetry; being extracted from books, which are probably in the hands of many of our readers, would not bear repetition in our pages. Other Communications are under consideration.

In our next number we expect to give a critique on Brougham's speech before the House of Commons in 1808, on recapitulating the evidence produced against the Orders in Council, in which a comprehensive view will be taken of this famous measure of policy or impolicy; by which our present commercial interests are so materially affected, and to which we are indebted for the want of flax-seed.

We are obliged to our Correspondents for the favour of their Communications. But we are again necessitated to complain that we appear as plagiarists, when the fault is not ours. After the account of Ann M'Quillen in this number was wrought off, we found that a similar article was published nearly verbatim in the Monthly Pantheon. We earnestly request of our Correspondents not to place us in so unpleasant a predicament. We cannot accept of divided favour without risquing our character for originality, which it is essentially our aim to preserve.